

Fire rages on after one of the worst disasters in world chemical industry

Managers of the £18m chemical plant destroyed by explosion in Isle of Scunthorpe last Saturday with the loss of 29 lives—and still blazing yesterday—had no idea last what caused the disaster. Leslie Granger, chairman of Nupro, which owns the plant,

near Scunthorpe, said he found it difficult to believe that the factory had been destroyed deliberately. Nupro, operated jointly by the National Coal Board and Dutch State Mines, used its Scunthorpe plant to make caprolactam, an essential component in the manufacture of nylon fibres.

The destroyed factory was the only one in Britain making caprolactam and it is feared that thousands of textile workers may be affected by the loss of such a vital supplier of a raw material which was already scarce before the explosion.



Photograph by Martin Parr

ck smoke billowing over the countryside yesterday from the Nupro plant at Scunthorpe, which was still burning more than 24 hours after the explosion. (Another photograph, page 4).

9 workers dead, more than 40 injured and huge area of surrounding land devastated

From John Charter, Donald Kershaw and Arthur Osman

Scunthorpe

Senior British and Dutch executives associated with one of the world's worst disasters in the chemical industry last night said they were totally baffled by the cause of the explosion in the plant they believed to be failed, but in which 29 people died, more than 40 were injured, and dozens of acres of surrounding land was devastated.

Mr Leslie Granger, chairman of Nupro Ltd, whose £18m plant applied a vital raw material for the British-made fibres industry, is now totally confused, said he found it difficult to believe that any one could have caused such devastation by sabotage.

A police spokesman said that when the plant had been "paying" to the responsibility of sabotage and that a full forensic examination had started.

Last night, 24 hours after the explosion, a smoke pall visible

miles away and bearing a marked resemblance to pictures of an atomic explosion cloud, was drifting across the Lincolnshire plain under a strong south-west wind and the crews more than 40 fire engines were still fighting flames from ruptured chemicals.

But Mr Joseph Selman, the managing director of the plant, he did not think there were any remaining hazards for local people. About 3,000 were situated from neighbouring villages on Saturday night, because it was at first thought the smoke might be poisonous.

Some returned home yesterday.

Mr Selman said last night there was "not much danger" from toxic gases, and that although another chemical tank or two might "blow its roof off" during the fire, which would probably take at least another 24 hours to extinguish, he did not foresee any major dangers.

A radioactive fallout scare also spread through the villages adjoining the plant yesterday. Last night, at the news conference, executives said there was a container of radioactive (gamma ray) material in the plant, but that it had been round intact and safe.

Mr Wyn Rogers, chairman of the Dutch State Mines, said last night: "It is completely amazing. We cannot understand it."

Mr Granger said, although they were always conscious of the danger of fire, the heating and pressurization process was carried out in closely controlled conditions and numerous interlocking devices had been fitted into all the control systems to prevent human error.

Mr Selman said there were several dozen plants of the same kind in the world. This plant was fully insured and its safety standards were accepted by all the leading insurance companies.

A full investigation by the company and forensic science and police experts has begun, and Mr Granger said the company would give full assistance to any further inquiry.

"We think we shall come to the conclusion that this was unique in the history of the chemical industry," he said.

A committee has been formed to carry out urgent action on compensation to victims, including the hundreds of house-holders and property owners who suffered blast and shock damage.

The intensity of the fire late last night was still preventing

the company from meeting its commitments," Mr Granger said.

Textile industry jobs may be affected

Our Business News Staff

Thousands of workers in the textile industry may be affected by the explosion at the Scunthorpe caprolactam plant.

The plant was the only one of kind in Britain producing caprolactam, which is the basic material used in the manufacture of nylon fibres. Its principal customers are Courtaulds and British Enkalon, together

count for an estimated 30 per cent of British nylon production.

Nylon, which has a wide range of uses, like many other fibres, has been in short supply for several months. Although the British-made fibre industry managed to recover strongly in the difficulties in the early part of the year, stocks have not been built up to normal levels.

Executives of both companies will have to find alternative sources of supply for an already substantially higher prices. Poverseas supplies.

Records feared lost, page 12

Families return to salvage what they can from the ruins of their homes

From Staff Reporters

Scunthorpe

The shocked and bandaged residents of the 16 shattered houses in Stather Road, Scunthorpe, the closest to the devastated plant, 600 yards away across a field of corn, picked lorries through their bits and pieces yesterday afternoon.

Many wondered, with justification, how they had survived.

If ever the overworked cliché about damage resembling that

of war-time was justified, it was out this occasion. The plant was an awesome thing like a mangled, futuristic meccano set, blackened and writhing with gouts of flame flaring at the base of a dense column of black smoke which could be seen 30 miles away.

Across the cornfield the semi-detached houses had taken the full force of the explosion. Residents, some in tears at the destruction of homes that had taken from 20 to 30 years to make, realized that they had been destroyed in one second at five

minutes to five on Saturday evening.

Gables were blown away, roof slates had been sheared and pointed to the sky. Walls hollowed and were cracked from top to bottom. Roofs had been wiped clean of slates. Ceilings had fallen, window frames had been blown to matchwood and the bric-a-brac of everyday life was embedded in walls or shattered by glass.

A television set with its mangled, blown-open, frayed wires cleared air, a smoke a vacuum cleaner hanging from an upstairs window and personal papers eddying everywhere in the gutters and on the wall kept lawn.

Shortly after lunchtime the residents began returning from their overnight temporary homes with friends and relatives. Their own vehicles, probably crushed beyond repair, they came in borrowed cars to salvage what they could. They departed early with vehicles piled with clothing and the odd piece of favourite furniture to give an

assurance of normality in the weeks to come.

Mr Daniel Nimm, at number 7, a civil engineer and wartime member of a commando unit, spoke of the most terrifying experience of his life. It was a moment shared by probably between 15,000 and 20,000 in Scunthorpe and farther afield in neighbouring villages, and even in Scunthorpe four miles away.

Mr Nimm was watching football on television with his son Brian, who plays for the United club in Scunthorpe. The latter, called to him at five minutes to five, that "the Nupro" as it is called, locally, was on fire. Mr Nimm went to his front window and saw a surge of flame around the main block known as Section One.

The residents of Stather Road are no strangers to the wall of fire sirens. The Scunthorpe Brigade, they said, was called to the plant on an average of twice a month to deal with small outbreaks.

Mr Nimm said: "I knew somehow this time, was

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Chinese poster attack, page 6

Stiffening of EEC in face of Britain's demands

From Roger Berthoud
Brussels, June 2

Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, will be making his second statement on the Labour Government's renegotiation demands in Luxembourg on Tuesday from a considerably improved position, it is widely felt in Brussels.

There is a new determination, symbolized by the weekend meeting of the new French President and the new West German Chancellor in Paris to revive the drooping EEC, coupled with a new warmth in Franco-German relations. Renegotiations look increasingly like an irritating obstacle. It will be good Mr Callaghan repeating the threats of Britain's withdrawal which marked his harsh April 1 statement in Luxembourg.

Such threats would no longer be convincing, as it is felt generally that the British Government genuinely wants Britain to stay in the Community. Even the American Administration has made it clear that it is appalled by talk of withdrawal.

Mr Callaghan will have to do more than persuade his sceptical colleagues that Britain has a genuine grievance, and that the accession treaty did not represent a fair deal. He will have to convince them that once any negotiations are over Britain will want to play a full and constructive role in the Community. This involves admitting that the broad goals of the Community, including eventual economic and monetary union, are worth while. Mr Callaghan's tone of voice will be all important.

The European Commission has meanwhile rebuffed a suggestion from Britain that it should put forward proposals itself for a more equitable system of contributions to the EEC budget. A reduction in Britain's proportional share is the main target of renegotiations. But the Government, sources here suggest, does not intend to state its demands too specifically.

A Commission initiative would have been convenient. But the Commission, having discussed the matter, felt it would be unwise at this stage to appear to be backing the British Government.

Under the present system, based on import levies and duties, the wealthy Germans and the relatively poor British and Italians are net contributors, while the rich Dutch, French and Danes do very nicely indeed. By 1980, according to Treasury calculations, Britain could be paying 24 per cent of the budget, while its share in the EEC's gross product would have dropped to 14 per cent.

The meeting of the EEC's Council of Ministers will mark the début of the new French and German Foreign Ministers, M. Sauvagnargues, and Herr Genscher.

Mr Callaghan will be accompanied by Mr Peter Shore, Trade Secretary, and Mr Haversley, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, respectively anti- and pro-Market.

Other fields in which Mr Callaghan is expected to give "dangerous" processes, and houses must be kept well apart," he said. "I am in no way satisfied that planning authorities have the necessary information or the expertise to assess potentially lethal hazards in a new process is established."

Mr David Crouch, Conservative MP for Canterbury and chairman of the all-party group for the chemical industries, said the disaster raised the question of safety standards and hazards in the chemical industry.

"We must know not only the potential danger of certain processes but the scale of danger to the public when they are exposed to such a vast size as at

Scunthorpe. I am asking the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Industry for their views on this point."

Our Political Staff writer: A private notice question has been tabled by Mr John Ellis, Labour MP, for Brigg and Scunthorpe, to answer in the Commons.

Mr Ellis, who is a leading insurance company, was asked whether he had been approached by the company to meet its compensation to victims.

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HOME NEWS

Industry, schools and transport threatened as Scottish oil refinery men decide to stay out

From Ronald Faux

Strikes workers at the British Petroleum refinery at Grangemouth voted unanimously yesterday to continue the unofficial strike which is seriously affecting public transport, petrol supplies and industry in central Scotland.

The men, who are demanding a £600-a-year shift allowance to cover overtime and other extras, are to seek official backing for the stoppage from the Transport and General Workers' Union. They hope to extend the dispute to the three other BP refineries in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The 800 men have been picketing seven of the nine Shell, Mex and BP terminals in Scotland which provide 45 per cent

of the country's fuel requirements. They have prevented all but essential supplies from leaving and they are planning to extend picketing to England.

Almost all the 1,600 Shell and BP petrol stations will run dry by early this week. Many have empty pumps and the increased demand on other brands has meant voluntary rationing at most garages.

In Glasgow and Lanarkshire buses will operate from today at peak hours only and it is feared thousands of children will not be able to attend school. More than half the buses operated by the Scottish Omnibuses group in west central Scotland will not be operating by next Thursday, and in

industrialists have predicted that several thousand workers will be laid off this week. The steelmaking, distilling and glassmaking industries have been affected and the Confederation of British Industry has described the situation as "close to chaos".

The strikers receive a shift allowance of £432 and have rejected the latest management offer of £525 which, according to BP, would make them the highest-paid shift workers in Britain.

On the Clyde, the strike at the Maxwell shipyards ended yesterday when a mass meeting of the work force voted to return. The men had been demanding a 10 per cent bonus payment. They agreed to accept 8 per cent at present and the question of the further 2 per cent is to go to arbitration.

Pakistani coming back to see the Queen

From Our Correspondent

Wolverhampton

Mrs Nafisa Hussein, aged 30, a former Pakistani soldier, who made a bed for the Queen and was deported when he came to present it, is due to arrive in London from Lahore next weekend to present a hand-carved bed to Princess Anne.

This was disclosed yesterday by Mr Patrick Cormack, Conservative MP for Staffordshire, South-West, who raised the question of Mr Hussein's deportation last December in the House. He said that he had raised more than £600 to pay for Mr Hussein.

Since serving in the British Army in the First World War, Mr Hussein's ambition has been to see a British Queen. He will be taken to the trooping the colour ceremony, where he will be able to see the Queen.

Mr Cormack said: "Mr Hussein will be the guest of the Royal Horse Artillery when he gets to London. He will be housed in their barracks and will be accompanied by a retired Pakistani officer, who will act as interpreter. On June 10 he will attend a tea party at the House of Commons."

Art teacher reinstated

Mr Derek Massey, an art teacher at a school in Letchworth, who was suspended from duty after performing a male ceremony of exorcism outside the school, has been reinstated by the school's governors.

Home Office blamed for delay over bail hostels

From Our Home Affairs Correspondent

York

A bail hostel in Sheffield, completed six months ago, is not being used because the Home Office has not given permission. This was disclosed on Saturday at a conference at York University, arranged by the National Association of Probation Officers.

The hostel, which is the first of its kind in Britain, is for eight people, and a warden has been appointed.

Mrs J. M. Whittaker, chairman of the residential subcommittee of the South Yorkshire Probation and After Care Committee, said: "All around our area we are annoyed".

The conference, which was discussing proposals on bail, by a Home Office working party, was also told that an hostel in London was ready to open in

Scientist's crossword win

From Edmund Akenhead

Crossword Editor

Bristol

The fifth regional final of the Curry's Times Crossword Championship was attended yesterday by 102 competitors at the Dragonara Hotel, Bristol. They tackled four Times crossword puzzles in four half-hour sessions.

The winner was Mr Terry E. Girdlestone, a research scientist of Bridgwater, who was last year's regional champion at

less than a week and two others were expected to be ready later in the year.

Mr Jim Horne, director of the St Mungo Community Trust, which is to run the Sheffield hostel at the Home Office's request, told me that the building had been bought, converted and equipped with £30,000 general security aid.

Three staff, including a warden, had been appointed.

Mr Horne is writing to Mr Jenkins, the Home Secretary, to complain.

The Home Office said yesterday: "New probation rules providing for the running of bail hostels will shortly be submitted to the Home Secretary. Probation officers, who are worried about the delay, have been told that it is the result of pressure of work on the lawfully responsible for drawing up the rules.

The bail hostels are for people classified as of no fixed abode. In the absence of hostels they may go to prison instead of being granted bail.

West Bromwich. He scored maximum puzzle points of 124 and 85 time bonus points (his average time being nine minutes a puzzle).

The runner-up, who will also be in the national final in London on September 1, was Mr Eric L. Rodick of Bramshall, Huddersfield. Prices were also presented to Mr H. W. Smith and Mr J. D. Baker, the sole other competitors to score maximum puzzle points. Their time bonus points were 74 and 47 respectively.

Mrs Wilson's 'mystical experience'

By a Staff Reporter

Mrs Mary Wilson, wife of the Prime Minister, said in a television interview shown last night that she had been "sick with fear" when she first moved into Downing Street.

She said that it was due to pride. "I did not want to make a mistake," she said.

She said that she prayed regularly and also spoke of "a mystical experience" in the Isles of Scilly. "Early one morning, alone on the beach, she had a most extraordinary feeling, as if I was dissolving". She had felt at one with the past and the future, and "all the anxieties of the world seemed to disappear".

Mrs Wilson was appearing on the Tyne Tees Television programme, "Children of the Vicarage", recorded in January, before the last election.

New gliding champion

Flight Lieutenant George Lee, of RAF Coningsby, Lincolnshire, is the new British gliding champion.

"Children of the Vicarage", recorded in January, before the last election.

He won four of the six events in the open class of the annual championships at Dimbleby Down, Bedfordshire, last week.

The following is the text of Mr Jenkins's statement on the Price sisters:

I have naturally been giving very close and careful consideration to the position of the Price sisters and others who are serving prison sentences in this country for acts of IRA terrorism. I think it desirable in present circumstances to make the position as clear as I possibly can. I do not wish misunderstanding to be a factor in events which can have substantial repercussions. In March, soon after taking office, I wrote a published letter to Lord Brockway stating that while I could not decide a prison disposition under duress, I was willing to consider in the course of a few months, taking into account both compassionate and security considerations, whether it would be right to transfer the Price sisters to prison in Northern Ireland. I repeated to the House of Commons on May 23 that this remained my position.

I'm not under any illusions the strength of the sisters' desire for freedom, nor, according to their own lights, the force of their convictions. I have not seen them myself. I considered this possibility, but rejected it firmly. I did not see the need to take risks to force a transfer and in no case would there be important security factors to weigh against such a transfer. Times of them were brutalised.

But whatever the previous position, I do not believe in standing idly upon the rights of the sisters.

But, short of that, I have made every possible effort, not only to their own cause, but to understand their minds. They have been seen, not only by their family, but by seven MPs, by Lord Brockway and, in an extended interview, by my Parliamentary Under-Secretary.

They have also been seen by a number of doctors, by the prison doctors themselves, who have rendered most dedicated service under very difficult circumstances; by a leading psychiatrist; and by a medical committee of the prison. There was no question of refusing independent advice as some have suggested—the consulting physician was brought in at the specific request of the prison medical staff.

The medical committee had carried out the disastrous task of administering artificial feeding for 167 days. They stopped doing so 167 days ago, because the medical cooperation necessary for this procedure had been withdrawn by the sisters. The medical judgment was that if then became dangerous and therefore self-defeating: on May 13 one of the sisters became unconscious in the process. I could not and did not, consent to this.

I understand that, except by the family, many efforts were made in the course of these visits to dissuade the sisters from the course of slow suicide upon which they appear to have set themselves. Although the family may have urged them on, rather than the other way round, it right on humanitarian grounds to facilitate their visits. Recently these visits have been no less frequent than if the sisters had been in prison in Northern Ireland.

The likelihood is that the sisters may end their lives, must now clearly be envisaged. The purpose of the hunger strike has been to force their transfer to Northern Ireland. And the present position has forced the authorities to consider whether I could not solve the problem by agreeing to this demand. I have gone over the question insistently and carefully in my own mind. It has been given an apparent reasonableness by reference to transfers which have previously taken place. None of these were comparable.

In the last four years seven per-

Cardinal criticizes Mr Jenkins's decision

From Robert Fisk

Belfast

The refusal of Mr Jenkins, the Home Secretary, to transfer the Price sisters to prison in Northern Ireland yesterday evoked criticism from two leading Roman Catholic churchmen in Ulster as well as further threats from the Provisional IRA's army council in Dublin.

Cardinal Conway, Primate of all Ireland, said in Armagh that he was "deeply disappointed" at Mr Jenkins's decision, which he thought was a mistake. The Roman Catholic Bishop of Derry, Dr Edward Daly, said that the sisters' request to be sent to Ulster was reasonable.

Dr Daly, who has frequently denounced the Provisional IRA's activities, condemned the wounding of a civilian and a British soldier in the city but said in reference to the Price sisters that the British government "should murder citizens of Ireland and expect to get away scot-free."

On Saturday the IRA said in a statement, that they would exact "just retribution" if either of the sisters died on hunger strike. "The IRA make no threats. We simply state that as comrades of these girls we shall not rest until just retribution is exacted from Mr Wilson and his servants. No British government shall murder citizens of Ireland and expect to get away scot-free."

They urged workers in the Irish Republic to "seize and burn all British-owned factories".

There has, however, been remarkably little public demonstration of sympathy with the Price sisters in the Catholic community of Belfast.

At a park on the Falls Road yesterday, scarcely a mile from the sisters' home, only 300 people turned up to hear speakers, including Mrs Mairead Drumm, the vice-president of Sinn Fein, demand a transfer of the girls to Ulster. The crowd was urged to send telegrams and letters to Mr Jenkins.

The apparent lack of popular support for the girls suggested that there would be no public outpouring if they died. The Army do not believe that the death of the sisters would bring any fundamental change in the overall security situation in Belfast.

There is no doubt that the IRA could lay on some spectacular military operation in order to show their displeasure. The most worrying possibility is that some attempt would be made on the life of a British minister in Northern Ireland; one of the "severances" to which the IRA referred in their statement.

Several political parties have asked why the sisters cannot be returned to Ulster when a convicted Ulster Defence Association murderer was transferred to



Mr Albert Price, father of the Price sisters, and his daughter Claire at a rally in London yesterday.

Conciliation, the organizers of the strike, came out and told waiting journalists Mr Dalyell was a nonentity without influence.

Mr Dalyell appears to have been asked bluntly whether he would stay in Belfast if the troops were pulled out. The West Lothian member is the first MP without a Northern Ireland constituency or a government post to talk to the men who brought down the power-sharing executive.

He came out of the meeting briefly to tell journalists he would leave any commitment to the UWC but would be describing the meeting to the Parliamentary Labour Party today. He had come on his own initiative and not as a messenger for the Government.

Today he may be followed by Mr Denis Powell, a politician adored by many loyalists at home, to address a rally organised by the Ulster Unionist Party and speakers from Ulster University. The UWC said yesterday that would join Mr Powell but Harry West, leader of the UU and Mr Powell's host, said "know nothing of this".

On Saturday Mr West, Rev. Ian Paisley and Mr William Craig joined UWC members to lead 4,000 loyalists in a victory march to Stormont to celebrate the fall of the Executive. Mr Paisley told marchers: "The first battle is been gloriously won but a war is still in progress."

London marches: More than 1,000 demonstrators protest against the detention in England of the Price sisters so in silence outside the Home Office during a march three London yesterday, the 200th of the sisters' hunger strike (Staff Reporters write).

About 500 demonstrators marching for the return of all Northern Irish political prisoners, Northern Ireland and led the flag of the Provisional Sinn Fein also marched from St. Peter's Corner, Hyde Park, to the home of Mr Jenkins, the Home Secretary.

At a rally later a demand was made for the return to Northern Ireland of the sons and daughters, and men convicted of London's bomb incidents, Mr Gene Kelly and Mr Hugh Feeney.

The march to the Home Office was led by Mr Alastair Price, father of the sisters, who visited them in Britain prior to Saturday. Asked how he raised his hands in gesture of despair, but refused to comment.

Mr Jenkins's decision was strongly criticized by the joint action committee for the release of the four prisoners, which organized the march.

Miss Jacqueline Kaye, member of the committee, said: "Mr Jenkins has signed the death warrant of these fair prisoners. He has also signed his own death warrant". She said afterwards that she meant Mr Jenkins would probably commit suicide because of his morose.

The march to Mr Jenkins's home, organized by the Irish Political Hostages Committee, an amateur group for Irish publican and socialist groups including the Provisional Sinn Fein, was given a heavy police escort but also passed without incident. The committee arranged another march to Downing Street next Sunday.

Road to dictatorship (page 1)

Leading article, page 1

Transfer to Ulster 'not way to protect British people'

and in my view, in the last resort, overwhelming. The objections to giving a promise under duress, or threats of violence, are obvious. Should I give a promise I could not be certain of fulfilling.

But whatever the previous position, I do not believe in standing idly upon the rights of the sisters.

But, short of that, I have made every possible effort, not only to their own cause, but to understand their minds. They have been seen, not only by their family, but by seven MPs, by Lord Brockway and, in an extended interview, by my Parliamentary Under-Secretary.

They have also been seen by a number of doctors, by the prison doctors themselves, who have rendered most dedicated service under very difficult circumstances; by a leading psychiatrist; and by a medical committee of the prison.

There was no question of refusing independent advice as some have suggested—the consulting physician was brought in at the specific request of the prison medical staff.

The medical committee had carried out the disastrous task of administering artificial feeding for 167 days. They stopped doing so 167 days ago, because the medical cooperation necessary for this procedure had been withdrawn by the sisters. The medical judgment was that if then became dangerous and therefore self-defeating: on May 13 one of the sisters became unconscious in the process. I could not and did not, consent to this.

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HOME NEWS

Sir Arthur Harris returns to attack

By Frank Roberts

Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Arthur Harris, on Tuesday renewed his criticism of the official history of the Second World War Bomber Command, in which he played a major part and about which he has been largely silent for many years. Sir Arthur made clear that the bomber crews could no longer be deprived of the credit he felt they deserved. He surprised about 70 members of his wartime staff and other officers by speaking to him for more than an hour during a reunion at RAF Strike Command headquarters. After a private talk by Air Chief Marshal Sir Denis Smallwood, who took over Strike Command in January, Sir Arthur, who is now 86, took up again the cudgels he had dropped in 1961.

Mr. Donner, chairman of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, which has about 850,000 members, told the opening session of the union's annual congress: "If we do not support our government with more than words, but with comprehension and frank calculation, then it might cease to be there. We want a fair deal for our members and think it can best be won by cooperation and not confrontation."

The last government

thought co-operation would work. It did not. It cannot. That is why we are for cooperation and why the TUC and the Labour Party must do more. It is a sturdy

and solid alliance, similar to the

coalitions summed up in the

phrase "social contract".

Mr. Donner continued: "In

furthering that contract we must play our part, for if we do not, it will be meaningless. Giving priority to the repeal of the

Industrial Relations Act means

that we are accepting Stage

III for the next few months.

It takes time to change legislation.

"Our real challenge will come

in the autumn when we try to develop collective bargaining

with a voluntary framework of

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Since then, however, much

more evidence has been made

public, including the writings of

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Sir Arthur's view of Bomber

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He recognizes that bombers

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many cities in all right to attack

Berlin and St Nazaire.

He himself was ordered by

Churchill and in the chain of

command, by the Air Minis-

try to carry out the bombing of

Dresden. But there is another

side to this picture: when the

ministry wanted him to bomb

Bordeaux, he demanded a writ

in order to that effect signed

by Churchill. It never came.

People

Flamboyant Mr Fairbairn comes in from the cold

Regional report

Ronald Faux Edinburgh

tude which produces noisy collisions for Mr. Fairbairn. The most recent was with the Free Church of Scotland, which openly criticised him at its General Assembly.

It would be understandable if Mr. Fairbairn, the newly selected prospective candidate for Kincardine and West Perthshire, subscribed to the less flattering view. He has emerged to battle the Tories in the direct wake of Sir Alec Douglas-Hope after years in a chilly wilderness from which most aspiring parliamentarians would have retired early.

The cold shoulders which a substantial number of selection committees and Tory associations have shown the flamboyant Mr. Fairbairn are even around his political ambitions like to many icebergs. He has been either rejected or even considered for practical every seat in Edinburgh, retired at the last election for Midlothian North and Bum, Edinburgh West and Edinburgh with twice turned down by Midlothian West, not considered by Inverness, not considered by Midlothian South. In Glasgow, a Gorbals Tory rejected his offer to represent them.

Why had he failed so often? Dry sticks are naturally and always wary of heat which they frequently mistake for warmth, so you have to dress up in romantic terms and it leads people easily to take a serious person for one who is frivolous.

Except that, Scottish history is full of examples of how you looked like achieving something was rejected. Any inventive Scots were given out of their country because of this.

Mr. Fairbairn cuts a formal establishment figure. He dressed in studied elegance. His home is a handsomely restored, sixteenth-century castle in Fife, a practice specialises in criminal law and he took silk 10 years ago.

Yet he clearly rejects any

establishment which has shallow

ambitions and people who obey

the rules as if they were trains

running along a track; an atti-

Immigrants' eagerness for promotion and better pay offends the local sense of hierarchies among the workers of Leicester

Undercurrents of resentment feed Asians' strike

From David Leigh

Leicester

The social contract between the TUC and the Government must be more than a "cynic's charter" or the Labour Administration on which the unions had pinned so many hopes might collapse, the chairman of Britain's third biggest union in Blackpool said yesterday.

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WEST EUROPE

President Giscard forges alliance with Herr Schmidt to halt disintegration of the Community

By Charles Hargrove, Paris, June 2

Franco-German relations got to a new start, some newspapers even speak of an important turning point, with the six days of talks in Paris at the weekend between President Giscard d'Estaing and Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor. The President's object in having these talks within a few days of taking office was to halt the disintegration of the European Community.

Since Britain's position towards Europe was now "more served and uncertain", he said during the election campaign, "progress in European construction lies by way of a lesser, considered entente with the Federal Republic." This stance is developing.

The violent clash between Herr Schmidt and M. Michel Debre, President Pompidou's Foreign Minister, at the Washington conference earlier this year is now a thing of the past. M. Giscard d'Estaing told the press from the steps of the Elysee Palace on Saturday: "We agreed that the construction of Europe is a fundamental task for both our Governments. To maintain and enhance Community achievements is not enough; in order

to avoid falling back, it is necessary to go forward."

"We also agreed that the Community should demonstrate its personality and cohesion, not only by returning to strict application of the rules which govern economic and commercial relations between member countries, but also by adopting and defending common positions on the big monetary, economic, and political problems."

Herr Schmidt obtained an assurance that France would not go the way of Italy and Denmark in resorting to protectionist measures to check the mounting deficit in its balance of payments.

"I told him this was out of the question," the French President said, in answer to a question. "We noted that it was only through a return to internal stability by the economies of member countries that the equilibrium disrupted by last October's events could be restored."

France, he said, had not requested financial assistance from Germany, nor had it been offered.

There was apparently no discussion in Paris of a possible revaluation of the German mark.

The Chancellor and the President were anxious not to lay

themselves open to the charge that they were setting up a kind of Paris-Bonn axis and taking decisions without their partners. However, with Italy and Britain out of the running, only France and Germany are in a position to take any initiatives.

Agreement in Paris was vastly helped by the close personal relations between the two men, who are on Christian names terms. "We have known each other for some years," Herr Schmidt observed, "and we are used to dealing with difficult situations. Our talks were marked by great cordiality, which is natural between friends."

Where President Pompidou and Mr Heath had a natural rivalry for one another, which smoothed over many difficulties, M. Giscard d'Estaing and Herr Schmidt get on well and neither of them has very much time for Mr Wilson. This is something which should make the British Government stop and think if once again it is not to miss the bus in Europe.

The entente cordiale between Paris and London has now given place to a revival of the exemplary Franco-German relations of a few years back.

With Britain conspicuously absent from the Paris talks, it is evident that the two leaders spoke to one another in English.

Leyland strikers allowed to meet in Spain

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, June 2

The Government agreed at the weekend to allow striking British Leyland workers to meet in the northern city of Pamplona after their labour dispute had increased tension between workers and state.

The workers at Leyland's steel plant, who were locked out until Tuesday for refusing to obey an order to return to work after a previous lock-out, will be allowed to meet without police interference on Tuesday, according to Cifra, the semi-official news agency.

When 1,500 strikers gathered Friday in Pamplona Cathedral, with the permission of Roman Catholic church authorities to discuss their pay claim, police entered the cathedral and drove them out.

A note issued by the Archishop of Pamplona pointed out he had not given police permission to enter the cathedral between the Concordat between Spain and the Vatican specifies that police must not carry out any official act inside a church without the permission of the hierarchy, "except in a case of great necessity".

Italian authorities face up to neo-fascist threat

From Peter Nichols

Rome, June 2

The huge military parade marking the twenty-eighth anniversary of the establishment of the Italian republic took place today amid reports of neo-fascist plots to destroy democracy and authoritative warnings of the danger of economic collapse.

For the first time since the foundation of the republic, the authorities cracked a large section of public opinion, appear to have faced up to the measure of neo-fascism, if not to that of the danger of economic collapse.

The immediate impulse was provided by the killing of seven people at Brescia on Tuesday when a bomb thought to have been planted by the extreme right exploded during an anti-fascist demonstration.

The newspapers today are full of accounts of right-wing plots said to have been aimed at bringing down democratic institutions by continued killings and violence and at installing some form of direct presidential rule.

The seriousness of neo-fascist plotting has yet to be ascertained reliably. Certainly for

years the extreme right has been engaged in a whole series of acts of violence and such acts would certainly have had some broader aim than just keeping the ghosts of the past alive.

There is now a conviction that terrorism must be stopped and that the state must stop condoning or even condoning the dangerous practices of right-wing extremists.

Signor Paolo Taviani, the Minister of the Interior, acted promptly by setting up yesterday a new inspectorate to deal with terrorism.

President Leone, in his message today to the armed forces, pointed out that such criminal acts as the Brescia bomb were due to the "irresponsible actions of squalid terrorist activities, directed at dismantling the institutions of the state."

He went on to express his confidence in the sense of balance of the majority.

The participation of the ordinary citizen is also seen to be important in the great problem facing the country, that of tackling the threatened collapse of the economy.

President Soares, in his message to the armed forces, pointed out that such criminal acts as the Brescia bomb were due to the "irresponsible actions of squalid terrorist activities, directed at dismantling the institutions of the state."

The Minister was returning to Lisbon after the first round of negotiations in London with representatives of the Guinean Bissau independence movement. He also met Mr Sauvagnargues, the French Foreign Minister.

President Soares expressed a "reasoned optimism" about the outcome of the London negotiations after his meeting with Dr Soares and hoped Portugal would soon open discussions with the independence movements in Mozambique and Angola.

"Problems there are more complex," he said. "But I think that if positive results are achieved with Guinean Bissau, these will influence negotiations with Angola and Mozambique."

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Portuguese to hold talks with Frelimo

From Our Correspondent

Lusaka, June 2

Talks on the future of Mozambique are to start on Wednesday between representatives of Frelimo, the liberation movement and the Portuguese in the Zambezi capital Lusaka.

The head of Frelimo, Mr Tomaz Machel, arrived in Lusaka today and Dr Mario Soares, the Portuguese Foreign Minister is expected on Wednesday.

Greeting the Frelimo leader at Lusaka airport, President Funes of Zambia said that this is the first time that the Portuguese authorities had recognized it without Frelimo cooperating in there could be no peace in Zambia.

He said that Dr Soares was going to Lusaka "flying on the wings of democracy".

The people of Zambia did not

the Mr Ian Smith of Rhodesia, John Vorster of South Africa, and the deposed Portu-

uese Premier, Dr Castro, because they were white. "It is what they do against our people, our fellow men, that we criticize," he said.

Days as Salazar, June 2.

Mr Tomaz Machel, leader of Frelimo, said his movement had accepted the new Lisbon junta's offer of talks, thus becoming the second guerrilla group in Portugal's three African territories to undertake formal negotiations.

"We are not going to discuss independence with the Portuguese," he told a press conference. "That is our inalienable right. Our position on this is clear."

The Portuguese must

negotiate with Frelimo to study the mechanism of transmitting power to the people of Mozambique and the leadership of Frelimo. Peace in Mozambique is inseparable from independence," Reuter.

Our Paris Correspondent

European Law Report Week ending May 31

Court of Justice of the European Communities

Whether EEC rule on alcohol content valid

Position 22.09 of the tariff read as follows:

For ethanol or neutral spirits, not denatured, of less than 80 degrees strength. Liqueurs and other spirituous beverages. Compound alcoholic preparations (concentrated extracts) for the manufacture of beverages.

a. Ethyl alcohol, not denatured, of less than 80 degrees.

b. Compound alcoholic preparations (known as "concentrated extracts").

c. Spirituous beverages: 1. Rum, arrack, etc.; 2. gin; 3. whisky; 4. vodka; 5. other.

writes: Dr Mario Soares, the Portuguese Foreign Minister, met President Senghor of Senegal for 45 minutes yesterday at his private flat in Paris.

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Our Paris Correspondent

Such an objection by the Council could not be upheld. The object of the various instruments of accession has been to extend to new member states the whole body of Community law in force at the time of accession. It is clear that certain clauses such as Article 3 of the Treaty of Accession might be considered as a recognition by all parties of the compulsory nature of the decisions or agreements enacted within the framework of Community law.

According to the German Federal Fiscal Court, there are the question of whether Regulation 7/Bis/59 is valid.

It had been published in the Official Journal on January 30, 1961, when the time limit set in Article 38 of the EEC Treaty for additions to annex II had already expired.

The fact that the regulation was to take retrospective effect on December 31, 1959, when the Council still had the power to add to annex II was irrelevant. In any case, according to Article 191, regulation shall enter into force on the date specified in them or, in the absence thereof, on the twelfth day following their publication.

The German court further inquired what were the criteria for distinguishing between the products listed under the tariff positions 22.09 (A) (ethyl alcohol) and 22.09 (C) (spirituous beverages).

Judgment

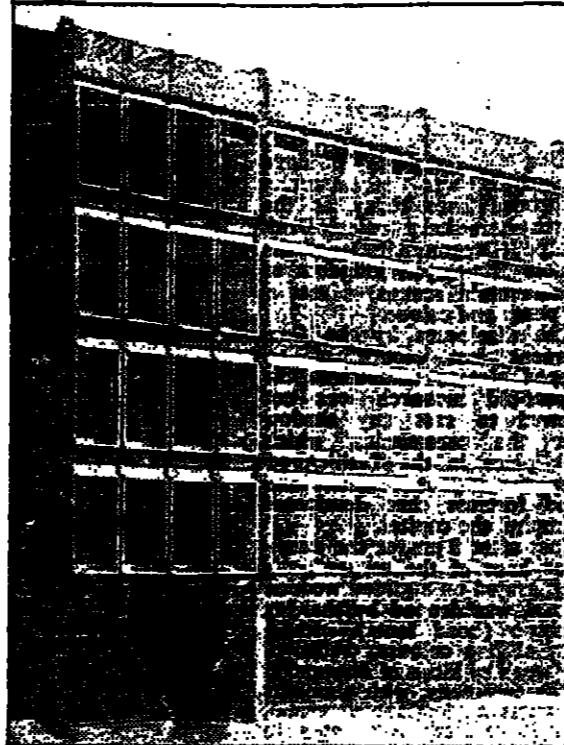
The questions concerned the validity of Council Regulation 7/Bis/59 and the interpretation of this regulation and of Common Customs Tariff position 22.09-A and 22.09-C-V-B. On the question of the validity of the regulation the Council had, during the oral part of the proceedings, indicated that the dispute had not been raised in any event because part and parcel of valid Community law, rules through Article 1 of the Treaty of Accession which provided that the new member states became parties to the treaties establishing those communities "as amended or supplemented".

The date of entry into force of the EEC treaty being January 1, 1958, the validity of the regulation was laid down in Article 38 (3) (entered into force on January 31, 1959). On December 14, 1959, the Council enacted Regulation 7/Bis/59, adding various products to annex II of the treaty. The regulation was not published in the Official Journal until January 30, 1961. Article 1 of that regulation purports to add to

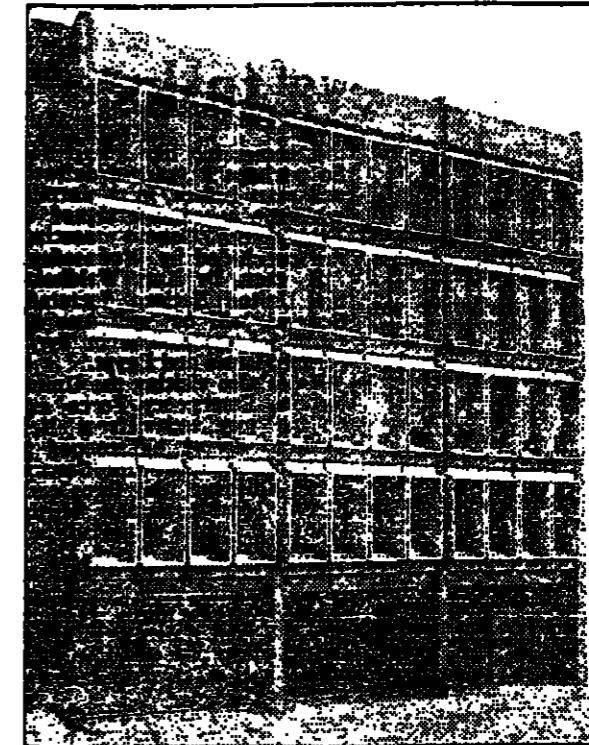
the date of entry into force of the regulation, laying down that the regulation "enters into force" prior to its publication, was incompatible with general principles of law, as this question had not been raised by the Council within the framework of Article 17.

On the question as to how to distinguish between goods classified under the two tariff positions under reference, the Court held that ethyl alcohol was to be distinguished from spirituous beverages on the basis of aromatic or taste qualities of the latter.

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Europa tomorrow sheds some light on the healthy condition of this "invisible America", and throws into relief the "invisible Europe" forming in its wake. Furthermore, in an exclusive interview, Dr Luns, Secretary General to NATO, discusses the question of Europe's defence; and, with the World Cup approaching, Europa also exposes how much German method is making of soccer madness.

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OVERSEAS

Syrians and Israelis make progress in chilly Geneva talks

From Alan McGregor
Geneva, June 2

Israeli and Syrian delegates are making progress, without obvious hitches, in their discussions in Geneva concerning the detailed implementation of the agreement for a disengagement of forces.

They met twice today, morning and evening, the lengthy afternoon recess being apparently to enable them to consult their respective capitals.

A United Nations communiqué said they had made "considerable progress in demarcating the different phases of disengagement as represented on a map" and progress was also "achieved on other matters. There will be a further meeting tomorrow morning."

If concessions made by the two Governments under the indefatigable prompting of Dr Kissinger were described as painful, the same description could not doubt be applied to the continuing discussions.

The four meetings so far seem to have been devoid of anything remotely resembling the smiles and handshakes that eventually came to mark the proceedings last January in the tent at kilometre 101 where the Israelis were discussing disengagement with the Egyptians.

Two of the principals have in fact met before in Sinai. General Taha al-Magdoub, of Egypt, and Major-General Herzl Shafir, of Israel. General Magdoub was also in Geneva in December and early January for meetings of the Egypt-Israel military working group, as was Colonel Dov Dior, the second man in the Israeli team.

Whatever basis of contact they then established does not seem as yet to have reasserted itself and certainly not to have been communicated to the Syrian delegation, under Brigadier Adnan Wahid Tayara.

One official claims, however, to have detected, or thought he

Arab guerrillas killed after Galilee manhunt

From Our Correspondent
Tel Aviv, June 2

Israeli troops reportedly killed two armed infiltrators from Lebanon after a manhunt in western Galilee today. Three others, one of whom was apparently wounded, escaped to Lebanese territory, it was reported.

The Israelis have been guarding Galilee closely since the Masdar tragedy last month.

Thousands of Jerusalem Arabs this afternoon suddenly watched Israeli forces bulldoze the home of seven Arab brothers being held on suspicion of murdering a Jerusalem taxi driver and putting a bomb in his cab and placing rockets aimed toward Jerusalem during one of Dr Kissinger's visits.

Marshal Tito lauds town which saved his life

From Dessa Trevisan
Belgrade, June 2

President Tito today visited the central Bosnian town of Drvar, where 30 years ago he had his closest escape from occupying troops in World War Two.

Wearing marshal's uniform, the former partisan leader, now aged 82, recalled how about 1,000 young partisans and residents of Drvar gave their lives to delay German paratroops as they closed in on a mountain cave where he and other leaders of the Yugoslav resistance had their headquarters.

In a nationally televised ceremony, President Tito gave the award of Yugoslav Hero to the town, winding up manoeuvres in which military units joined conflict with 200 Yugoslav paratroopers in a reconstruction of the battle.

In several interviews published this weekend, President Tito has described the events at Drvar in 1944 in more detail than he has done before.

He said that as he slid down a rope on leaving the cave he was times took out his pistol to shoot his dog Tiger which was barking and drawing German attention. He could not bring himself to do it, however, and the dog went with him as he climbed higher into the hills.

He also spoke of how he watched the Germans killing the people of the town and how he was reaching for his gun to shoot down below and then was stopped by his associates. "It was a terrible feeling of helplessness, particularly as all those people there demonstrated incredible courage and were ready to die rather than to betray my hideout", he said.

Chinese posters attack provincial leaders

From David Bonavia
Canton, June 2

A campaign of wall posters criticizing management staff in factories, communes and administrative offices has recently begun in the Canton area of China, according to local sources.

Those whose "errors" are coming under fire are in some cases being denounced as "sworn followers" of the late Marshal Lin Piao, the sources state.

However, the city seemed relaxed today as Mr Edward Heath was given a mass send-off at the railway station on his way to Hongkong.

The wall posters in Canton are apparently confined to the interiors of buildings and courtyards. I saw some in streets in the city centre.

There is nothing in Canton to match the extraordinary fervour which appeared to be taking place in Kunming, the capital of Yunnan province, where Mr Heath was yesterday. Huge banners were strong across main streets there, denouncing leading members of the provincial revolutionary committee—Mr Heath's hosts.

There was no indication that in the public dissatisfaction in Kunming had anything to do with Mr Heath's visit. But Mr Chen Kang, a vice-chairman of the revolutionary committee, who was at the British Opposition leader's side throughout the visit, was the main target of criticism. On posters calling for his overthrow, his name was written upside down and

crossed out in red, which is a severe insult.

Among others criticized by name were Mr Wang Bi-cheng, also a vice-chairman of the committee, and a Mr Tan Jen-jiun. Their faults were not described in detail, as far as could be seen from a car window, but the posters were attracting large crowds in the city centre.

One referred to a "restorationist faction" in the committee, and there were references to a directive from the authorities in Peking which appeared to date May 18, though its contents were not clear.

The contrast between political conditions in Kunming and Canton illustrates the considerable amount of regional autonomy which exists in China. This point is underlined by the fact that even the presence of an honoured guest who had been received by Chairman Mao Tse-tung did not deter the people of Kunming from carrying on their political struggle in front of him and a British press corps of over a dozen.

In Canton Mr Heath was met and fed by Mr Chao Tzu-yang, who recently re-emerged as first party secretary for Kwangtung province after a period of political eclipse dating from the Cultural Revolution. He was the most senior party official to receive Mr Heath anywhere outside Peking and his appearance underlined the determination of the authorities to put civilian administrators back into leading posts in the eight military regions whose commanders were resubfitted

shortly before the new year. However the names of the new appointees have not yet been disclosed in the other seven regions.

Hongkong, June 2—Mr Heath had a press conference on his arrival in Hongkong and from China today that he had found Chinese leaders to be firm supporters of European unity.

Asked what he attributed the importance attached by the Chinese to his visit, he suggested that it was because full Sino-British diplomatic relations had been established while he was Prime Minister, and because of his own European credentials.

On European unity, he said: "It was discussed in my talks with Chairman Mao—and he is for it."

The view of the Chinese leadership, Mr Heath said, was that for a long period Europe had to itself stand with China and that this point was being lost of the past. Peking thought it was a natural thing for European countries to work together more and more closely.

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Asked whether the political situation in Kunming and Canton illustrates the considerable amount of regional autonomy which exists in China, this point is underlined by the fact that even the presence of an honoured guest who had been received by Chairman Mao Tse-tung did not deter the people of Kunming from carrying on their political struggle in front of him and a British press corps of over a dozen.

In Canton Mr Heath was met and fed by Mr Chao Tzu-yang, who recently re-emerged as first party secretary for Kwangtung province after a period of political eclipse dating from the Cultural Revolution. He was the most senior party official to receive Mr Heath anywhere outside Peking and his appearance underlined the determination of the authorities to put civilian administrators back into leading posts in the eight military regions whose commanders were resubfitted

Assassination plot casts no shadows as a young monarch takes throne of his Himalayan kingdom

From Michael Hornsby
Thimphu, Bhutan, June 2

King Jigme Singye Wangchuk was ceremonially enthroned here today as the fourth hereditary ruler—Drup Gyalpo (Dragon King)—of the remote Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan amid scenes of medieval pomp and colour.

The display by the Government last month of an alleged plot to assassinate the 18-year-old monarch was not allowed to cast any shadow over the ceremonies, which took place in the Tashichhodzong, the impressive stone and wood fortress that dominates Thimphu, the capital.

Just after 9 am, at the auspicious hour of the serpent, the king, seated on a gilded wooden throne, was draped by the Jey Kehnpo (head lama) with a scarf of five colours, traditionally worn by kings of Bhutan.

The ceremony, with elements of ancient Bhutanese ritual, took its present form only in 1907, when Sir Ugyen Wangchuk, the present king's great-grandfather, became the first hereditary ruler of Bhutan and founded the Wangchuk dynasty.

The royal crown, surmounted by a raven's head representing the protective Buddhist deity and decorated by a motif of skulls and flames, is not a necessary component of a Bhutanese coronation and the king chose not to wear it on this occasion.

Various articles of special religious and spiritual significance were offered to the king after the presentation of the Royal scarf. These included a gold and silver mirror for wisdom and knowledge; cords for purity; grass shoots for enlightenment and longevity and white mustard seed for victory over evil spirits.

This was followed by the offering of different kinds of food and tea to the gods, with the king and his guests gathered in the heavily gilded wood-panelled throne room.

Dignitaries from 16 countries then presented white ceremonial scarves to the young monarch.

The guests included the Presidents of India and Bangladesh, the Chogyal of Sikkim, Bhutan's small neighbour, the King of Nepal's brother, and the Delhi heads of mission of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

Earlier, preceded by capering dancers and helmeted warriors in richly brocaded silk costumes of scarlet, gold and



King Jigme Singye Wangchuk wearing the Raven Crown of Bhutan.

young King was disclosed for the first time last month. According to the May 12 issue of the official weekly bulletin of the Royal Bhutan Government, 30 people were arrested in connection with the plot about two months ago.

Those arrested included the deputy Home Minister and the commander of the Royal Bhutan police.

The Government also disclosed that "a large cache of arms, ammunition, hand grenades and poison" has been seized.

The Government claimed that the aim of the plot was to replace the King with the son of one Yangki, a Tibetan woman who enjoyed considerable influence during the reign of the previous monarch, King Jigme Dorji Wangchuk, the present King's father, whose concubine she was alleged to have been. She is now said to have taken refuge in India.

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Superiors say Jesuit can continue as Nixon aide

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, June 2

Father McLaughlin has made his peace with the Society of Jesus. His superiors have decided that he can continue to live in the Watergate building complex in Washington and make speeches defending the President and that he may continue to work for the White House as special assistant.

They were not so sure a few weeks ago. Father McLaughlin had studied the version of the Watergate tapes edited and published by the White House and had concluded that the (explicatives deleted) and (characterizations deleted) were perfectly harmless, moral and in no way reprehensible.

His superiors, including the Very Reverend Father Richard Cleary, Provincial of the Jesuits in New England, had their doubts. Father Cleary, observing that other versions of the transcripts showed that many of the name of the Lord in vain, concluded that he had no authority to abrogate the Third Commandment and neither had President Nixon or Father McLaughlin.

He also had doubts about the compatibility of Father McLaughlin's views of poverty with life in the Watergate, an exceedingly smart block of flats next to the Kennedy Centre, where many Republican dandies live. The Democrats were thought to be out of place there in 1972. They have since left.

Father McLaughlin is known to the unkink as President Nixon's resident exorcist. He writes and delivers speeches and gives interviews always upholding the President and all his works with the utmost vigour, candour and total lack of moderation. He defends the President and his works and his (explicatives deleted) and (characterizations deleted) were perfectly harmless, moral and in no way reprehensible.

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He also had doubts about the compatibility of Father McLaughlin's views of poverty with life in the Watergate, an exceedingly smart block of flats next to the Kennedy Centre, where many Republican dandies live. The Democrats were thought to be out of place there in 1972. They have since left.

Father Cleary had no wish to seem to be joining the attack when he issued a gentle statement suggesting that Father McLaughlin might usefully get in touch with him and might even go into retreat for a while. The ways of the Society are as abundant as they are expected to be, then stocks can be partially replenished but more than one good season is necessary to bring them back to safe levels.

But that does not appear to be the end of it. The chief electoral officer in Western Australia is to adjudicate upon the 1974 harvests were as abundant as they are expected to be, then stocks can be partially replenished but more than one good season is necessary to bring them back to safe levels.

The 1973 harvests were reasonably good, but not sufficient to prevent a further fall in exporters' stocks. If the 1974 harvests are as abundant as they are expected to be, then stocks can be partially replenished but more than one good season is necessary to bring them back to safe levels.

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Next weekend the Association of

Headmistresses is holding its cen-

tury conference at the Queen

Elizabeth Hall in London.

If this conjures up an assembly of

staid ladies with tradi-

tional views, sensibly shod, well

headmistresses (like mothers-in-law)

have learnt to live with a blanked image.

A book about that 100 years,

"Reluctant Revolutionaries", by Mary Price and Nonna

Glenday (Pitman, £3, published tomorrow),

shows that members often had ideas ahead

of their time. But it could be argued that

they sometimes had what we now think

are the right ideas for what are now con-

sidered the wrong reasons. For example,

they were adamant that non-examinable

creative subjects must be time-tabled in

girls' schools, and that too much emphasis

must not be put on competing. But not

being competitive was a Good Thing only

for young ladies, not for young gentlemen.

However, in 1904 the headmistresses

stressed that arousing all children's

interest in the world around them, in

discovery, and developing individuality was

what education should be about. They were

against mere fact-learning.

Unlike headmistresses, headmistresses

never split into top people's schools and

the rest. Though started by and for heads

of independent schools for young ladies,

the association welcomed heads of new

types of schools as these emerged. Its

policy on women's rights was "no action"

for the first 35 years of its existence. Then,

in 1909, a sizable group sent a petition to

Asquith: "...the headmistress is repre-

sented to the same class as the male convict

and lunatic; she may—nay, must—do the

work of the citizen but may not have a

citizen's privileges... We desire to see

the whole work of the country perfected,

as it can only be when the gifts of women

as well as those of men can be freely

given for its service."

More recently, the association has fought

for full acceptance of part-time teachers

in schools and for a fairer admission

policy towards female medical school

applicants. The AHM gave evidence to

the Equal Opportunities Commission, but

there is not, by and large, much overlap

between the association and women's

liberation groups.

However, the president-elect, Miss Eliza-

beth Joyce Bradbury, constitutes a con-

siderable break with tradition. Miss

Bradbury will be the first president who

is head of a comprehensive school. She is

also the first to declare a particular

interest in the less able child and the

"cycle of deprivation". She is head of

Thornhill School, Sunderland, co Durham,

and combines a friendly, approachable

manner with a sharp wit.

Miss Bradbury does not consider herself

a revolutionary: "At least not now.

During my post-graduate training I wrote

an impassioned thesis on co-education.

My championship of the cause was based on

on lack of first-hand knowledge of what

I presumed to criticize."

Between those

partisan days and making her name in

comprehensive co-education, she taught in

single sex schools and, to her surprise,

children are looked after during the day,

either by sending under fives to a day

nursery or getting daily minders.

The major difficulty, if only because it

is with the five to 15-year-olds, "It's all

right between 9 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. in the

school term", says Margaret Bramall. "It's

before and after that's the problem. Some

men who must be at work by 7.30 a.m.

worry like anything whether their children

have got up to go to school."

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Thanet

Partners retain identity in new marriage of convenience

by Christopher Warman
Local Government
Correspondent

The task facing the new Thanet District Council under local government reorganization was to bring together several different kinds of local authorities, including three boroughs proud of their identity and independence into one compatible unit. Many of the new local authorities have had considerable difficulty in achieving a similar aim, but Thanet has been fortunate.

The area has two advantages which have enabled the new authorities to arrange a successful marriage of convenience rather than the shotgun wedding forced on other districts in Britain.

First, Thanet is an easily definable unit, created by the bifurcation of the river Stour; second, it is a predominantly urban area where there has been cooperation for some years between its constituent towns.

Thanet district is made up of the former boroughs of Margate and Ramsgate, the urban district of Broadstairs and St Peter, and the parishes of Acol, Minster, Monkton, and St Nicholas-at-Wade with Sarre and Eastgate rural district.

The three main towns are all resorts, and have common problems and aims. Over the years they have joined forces on the provision of water, they share crematorium duties laid down by the Cremation Act, and they have a joint computer centre. Those examples of their previous cooperation show how natural was their marriage on April 1.

Preparations for the wedding had been in progress for many months, since the "shadow" new authority was elected last June. The council quickly appointed its chief executive, Mr Ian Gill, the young Town Clerk of Dover. Although still work-

ing for Dover, he spent a good deal of time from July, when he was given the post, preparing for the big day.

Seven directors were appointed for the various spheres of council activity. Five of them had served with one or other of the three big authorities making up the district, which helped to maintain continuity in the new organization. The directors are, for the technical, financial, administrative, environmental, planning, housing and amenities departments—the last demonstrating the importance of the holiday resorts to the future of the district.

Looking back at those early months, councillors and officers alike remember the enormous amount of time spent considering every detail of the new organization. At the time it seemed they were being too fussy, but they believe now that they are reaping the benefits: everyone knows, collectively and individually, exactly what he is meant to be doing.

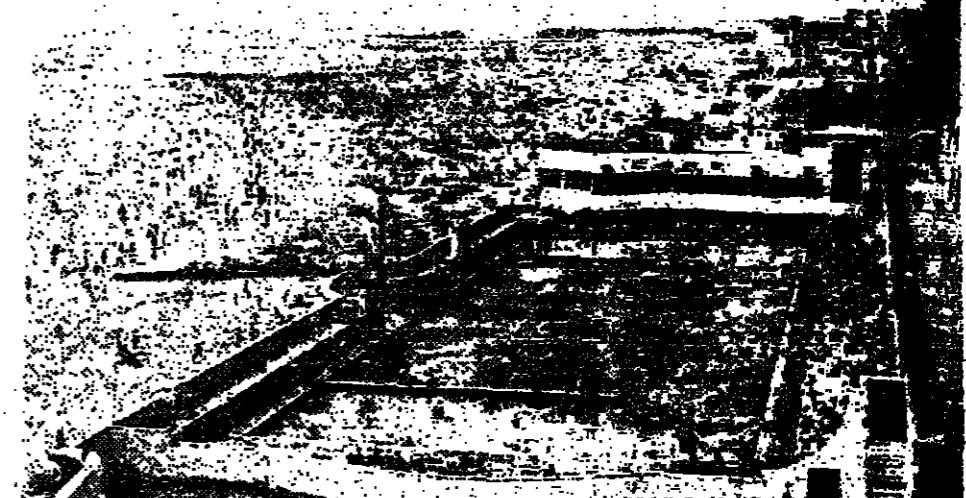
Like so many other new authorities, Thanet District Council is having to make do with the council buildings, spread all over the area, used by the old authorities. But Margate, the new administrative centre, already had buildings planned as part of a large civic centre, and it is hoped that, despite recent building delays, the new offices will be ready in the late autumn.

That will help to bring about the streamlining that was one of the reasons for reorganization. Another was the need to rationalize the districts generally lost powers through reorganization, but Thanet, having accepted the loss, is pleased with the level of agency gained.

At first after April 1 the aim was to maintain services at their existing level, and this has meant bringing them to a uniform standard over the district. Now a de-



The three main towns of the new Thanet district are all resorts: Margate, Ramsgate and Broadstairs. Above: the marine sands and clock tower at Margate. Right: the beach and open-air swimming pool at Ramsgate. Broadstairs (below) is smaller and quieter. The picture shows Viking Bay.



tailed reappraisal of all the could not have been so effective until the local authority had sufficient size and resources.

One of the main intentions of the new council wants to seek its own solutions, there is the chance to plan properly for the whole area. Second, "this district has assumed full responsibility for the community, for the quality of life, beyond what it has to do under reorganization. We are, for example, considering the aftercare of patients—although we do not have to. This is novel."

Finally, like the good salesman a modern chief executive has to be, he declares: "We have a marvellous product to promote. It is an excellent package."

The programme of the new district council, planned in the months before April 1, is now under way. In the first month, the authority secured 100 completions in a £7m housing project, buying land from the private sector. "We are way ahead of the Greater London Council in this", the council men say confidently. "It will benefit in time. Mr Gill gives two reasons for believing that it will.

After being rejected by the old council, the new council has invited to attend, to learn the views of the local people.

The first few weeks have been hectic, particularly for the council's officers. There has been a flood of planning applications, mainly from people waiting until the new council came into being and from those trying again after being rejected by the old council.

It is too early to assess whether the 116,000 people of Thanet are benefiting from the new regime. Mr Gill hopes the whole area will benefit in time. Mr Gill gives two reasons for believing that it will.

In a compact area where despite cooperation in the past each part has tended to seek its own solutions, there is the chance to plan properly for the whole area. Second, "this district has assumed full responsibility for the community, for the quality of life, beyond what it has to do under reorganization. We are, for example, considering the aftercare of patients—although we do not have to. This is novel."

Finally, like the good salesman a modern chief executive has to be, he declares: "We have a marvellous product to promote. It is an excellent package."

Expanding industry in holiday playground

by William S. Evans

than five per cent of the 1,500 workers—including about 750 part-timers—are women.

The factory has had to be extended three times in 20 years, and now occupies 133,000 sq ft. Last year a 21m warehouse covering another 64,000 sq ft was opened.

Rank Hilger, part of Rank Precision Industries, producing scientific instruments in a 103,000 sq ft floor space, employs 530 staff. Originally Hilger & Watts, which came to Margate in 1961, it became Rank's in 1968 and is now the group's only analytical instrument factory. A new office block was added last year.

A new estate at Tivoli Road, near the seaport, offers in six acres, about 60,000 sq ft for industry.

At Ramsgate the late council were also proud of their industrial success. At Haine there was originally a private development, whose eight acres are almost complete. Here the variety of firms includes Alfred Compston's Amusement Machines.

One of its greatest contracts is a £250,000 order, gained last year, for making over 4,000 arcade payout machines, some worth £1,600 each, for Japan.

Rank, the electronics group, opened in Westwood Road factory only nine months ago with eight people. Now it employs more than 100, and the group's chairman, Mr E. T. Harrison, has announced plans for a new 60,000 sq ft factory on Ramsgate Industrial Estate, which it hopes to open by mid-1975. Business worth more than £2m, mainly for the export market, has already been directed to Thanet and the group's expansion will lead to more jobs.

Within weeks of taking office the council embarked on a four-stage economic survey. The aim is to assemble statistics, break these down into age groups, fields of employment and so forth, and to position employers for information about their firms. Finally, they intend to analyse the figures, the employers' replies and marry up their requirements with the labour available.

"By the autumn we hope to have found the pattern that growth should take—whether in the fields of industry, offices, leisure or any other category", Mr Perkin adds.

Without natural resources to dictate policy previous councils have sought diversity in industry. Only one way, they reasoned, could firm expand—a fair slice of the work force.

Thanet council, in the early fifties, led the industrial way to what is traditionally a summer holiday area. At Westwood 27 acres were developed, followed by another 23 acres in the sixties. Only two acres, which could accommodate another 30,000 sq ft of factory floor, are unoccupied.

The once open fields are flattened and five or two acre plots of Margate moved into a purpose-built factory in 1952. With 280 employees, mainly men, it is one of the country's largest factories making children's socks for chain stores. There have been machinery and employment expansions in each of the past five years.

Along the road is Roverex. Its factory, established soon after Klinger's, exports millions of toys to 50 countries topped by Australia and the EEC; it also caters for a huge home market. Roverex is part of the giant Dunbee-Combex-Marx group, with brand names like Hornby, Scalextric and Frog. Mr Perkin says:

"Roverex draws a large percentage of its labour from Thanet so it is important, in strategic planning, that the county considers it in the context of Thanet's employment and land availability in the whole of east Kent".

Rank Hilger took over an old school to open a clothing factory. Later he converted a mansion and now employs 200 people making women's sportswear.

He recognizes a staff shortage in the clothing trade but has no doubt the council is tackling its problems on the right lines and that the future is assured.

If one man can claim to have started Thanet's post-war industrial surge it is Mr Harry Anish, who, in 1946, is Thanet council's chairman.

TECHNOLOGY AT THANET

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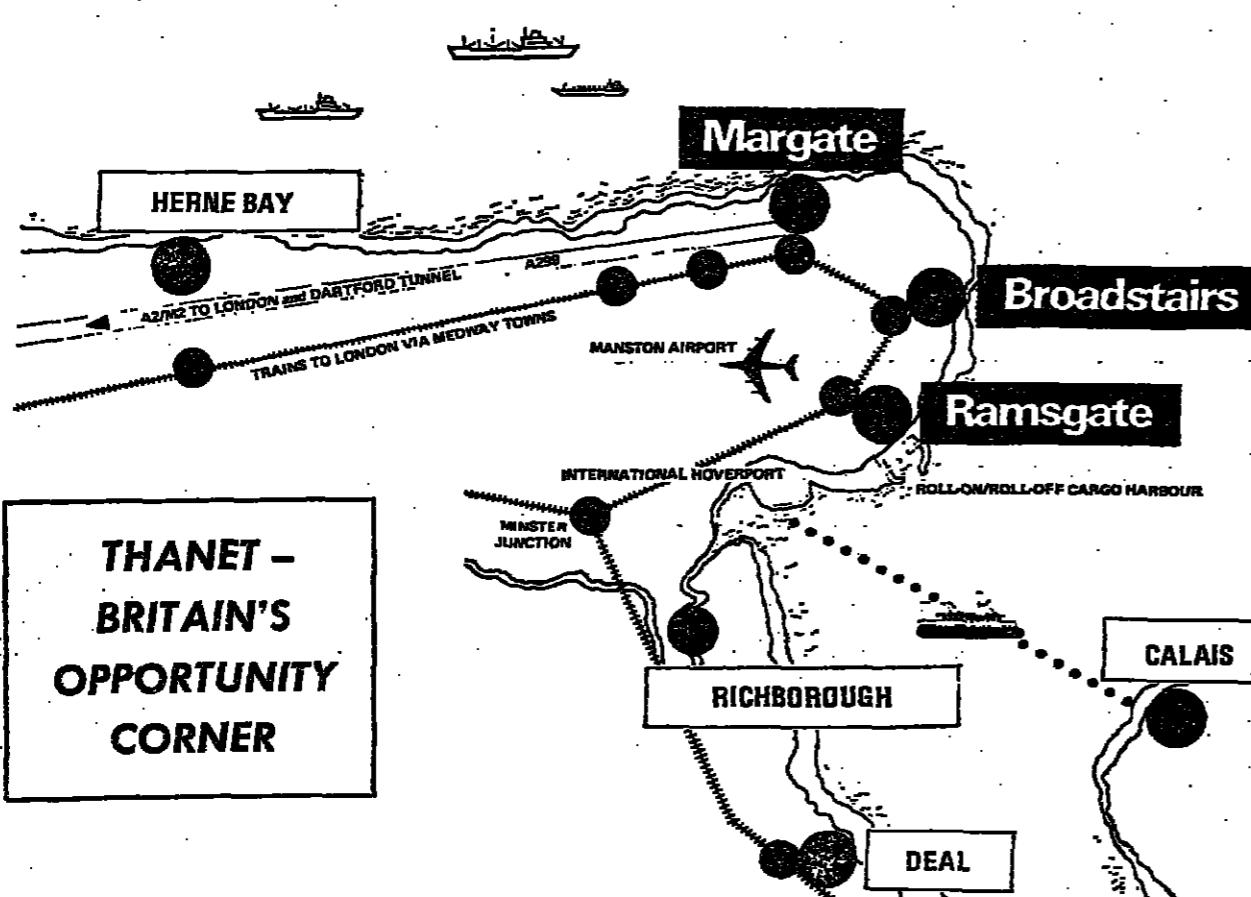
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Existing cross-Channel transport facilities—Margate Hoverport, Manston Airport, Ramsgate Harbour and the nearby Dover Harbour—and the projected Channel Tunnel all point to Thanet as a launching pad to EEC trading. The A2/M2 provides a fast road route from London... and the Dartford Tunnel a

way of avoiding the metropolis for rapid communications with the Midlands and the North. Fast rail services to London link to all parts of the country.

What better place to invite key staff to re-locate? Residents as well as visitors enjoy the healthy, sunny climate, beach and sea at the doorstep, the wide choice of restaurants and entertainments, and the lovely countryside of East Kent.

And the holidays scene is bustling forward alongside the commercial growth. In the pipeline are plans for a marina at Margate, major expansion of leisure boating facilities at Ramsgate Harbour and a big caravan and entertainment complex. For conference organisers, Thanet can offer the facilities of Ramsgate and Broadstairs as well as the established conference centre at Margate.

If you want to know more about the industrial and commercial possibilities, contact:

Colin Perkin, Economic Development Officer, Thanet District Council, P.O. Box No. 9, Margate, Kent. Tel: Thanet 22201

For holiday and conference information:

Publicity Manager, Information Centre, Marine Terrace, Margate, Kent. Tel: Thanet 20241

A legal view of the lessons to be learned from the Poulson affair

Why we must have an anti-corruption agency

The terms of reference of Lord Redcliffe-Maud's Committee, set up by Mr Heath in October 1973, were restricted to the examination of present local government law and practice and did not include the police (nor (as stated at paragraph 4 of its report) was it for the purpose of investigating past events or specific allegations of misconduct, except in so far as conclusions could be drawn from them relating to the matters it had been asked to consider).

The Committee, however, appears to have felt impelled to make certain recommendations specifically at the better detection and repression of corruption—both as to the confidential receipt and investigation of complaints from the public (para 156)—and at conferring on the police and on the Director of Public Prosecutions limited new powers to inspect the financial records of persons under investigation (paras 151, 159).

It may, however, be asked whether their suggestions go any distance towards dealing adequately with any future case of the Poulson type. It was that case, and its repercussions, which prompted the setting up of the Committee, and which are currently leading to other socio-political reforms. But if society is to be appropriately armed and defended for the future the

lessons of the Poulson inquiry need to be studied in detail, and in particular the exceptional factors which have led to the results so far achieved, in the shape of the convictions of numerous people formerly holding high positions, and the recovery of very large amounts of money.

The two crucial factors were surely the fact that Mr Poulson became bankrupt, and the massive deployment of police power on an ad hoc basis, under direct and central control from the highest levels.

The bankruptcy of Mr Poulson and the liquidation of his companies made available to the trustee in bankruptcy and the liquidator those special powers conferred by the Bankruptcy Act and the Companies Acts both for the public examination of the bankrupt and for the private examination of persons holding his dealings with the bankrupt or who were officers of the companies, and for the seizure or compulsory disclosure of the seizure or compulsory disclosure of all relevant documents and records. Although officers of the Customs and Excise and of the Treasury possess certain powers of private questioning and the inspection of books of accounts, these are extremely limited, and the insolvency code is unique in the remedies open to its administrators.

In the event, practically all the

vital documentary evidence used by the prosecution at the Poulson trials, and most of the important admissions there relied upon as evidence against the defendants, were derived directly from bankruptcy and liquidation sources. As Mr Justice Waller said, when sentencing Mr Cunningham and Mr T. Dan Smith on April 26: "The very, very serious aspect of this case is that this corruption was done so discreetly. If Poulson had not gone bankrupt, none of this would have come out. This is the evil of the situation."

The second crucial factor was the exceptional commitment of police resources. Under the indefatigable leadership of Commander (now Deputy Assistant Commissioner) James Crane, dozens of senior detectives were diverted into the investigation on a large scale. (It is said that ever known before a group of officers were allocated to each major suspect or group of suspects or to specific "provinces" of the inquiry, and the documentary evidence—amounting in the case of the tons alone to nearly 40 tons—was copied, analysed and meticulously analysed. So effective, indeed overwhelming, were these two factors in combination that after Mr Poulson and Mr Pottinger, who pleaded not guilty at their trial, had been convicted, every defen-

dant subsequently arraigned has pleaded guilty.

Can society hope to be so fortunate on any future comparable occasion, as to have a principal in the corruption network for ruinously adjudged bankrupt, and as to have unlimited detective resources available to allocate? Shall not society rather consider the feasibility of setting up, subject to all due safeguards for justice, a permanent organ of administration to investigate and to prosecute charges of corruption—starting with the processing of reports or allegations received from public or private sources—an organ which might conveniently be called The Central Anti-Corruption Agency?

Such an agency would need to

have conferred upon it powers of interrogation similar to those available to the Law Commission, and subject to a degree of control by or sanction from the courts, as is suggested by the Customs and Excise and the Treasury, including the examination of documentary evidence and going much beyond the mere inspection of financial records recommended by the Redcliffe-Maud Committee.

The agency would have a permanent specialized staff drawn from police, accountancy, legal, local government and other appropriate sources, and reinforced from outside for any particularly heavy caseload. The

lack of such investigative staff at the disposal of the Director of Public Prosecutions is noted in the Redcliffe-Maud Report (of para 157). Such lack may in part explain the inability of his office to go into those audit reports to the detriment of Mr Poulson, which were made to the Director, as we now learn, as early as 1968.

Being an agency with a national area of jurisdiction it would not be subject to the local obstacles or embarrassments which may perhaps have arisen in County Durham, and it would seem advisable, if not to report directly to the Prime Minister, as to the Security Service, it might be saved from other embarrassments.

The agency would need to be established by statute, perhaps on a periodically renewable basis like the Law Commission, and subject to a degree of control by or sanction from the courts, as is suggested by the Redcliffe-Maud Committee in their proposals (of para 160) to inspection of financial records.

One of the lessons of the Poulson affair has been the interlocking of different aspects of branches of the case, and of the activities of the central, or in widely separated parts of the country, or in other parts of the world. From this point of view, the agency would surely be in a far better position

to survey and to collate data relating to any known or suspected corrupt activity on such a scale than is the Metropolitan Police or any regional police authority.

Finally, the agency would be the most appropriate depository for the vast mass of Poulson archives, which, after the eventual conclusion of the Poulson bankruptcy, will need to be placed somewhere where they may still be of service to society, and harm none but the wrongdoer. There is no doubt a great deal still to be learned from further study of those legions of files, as to the manner in which public servants may be tempted (whether successfully or not) to defend—material which could not be made available to Lord Redcliffe-Maud and his colleagues.

The establishment, by due process of law and with all necessary protective provisions, of such a Central Anti-Corruption Agency might prove to be the most enduring and worthwhile monument to the melancholy events of the past two years.

A Special Correspondent

The battle of Europe goes on at Westminster

From the first day that Labour came to power, it was clear that there were two battles to be fought on Europe: one in Brussels and one in Westminster, and that it was the Westminster battle which was likely to prove decisive in whether Britain stayed in the European Community or pulled out.

The essential difference on renegotiation was that the extreme critics wanted to force a break with Community rules and regulations, the sharper the better, while the majority favoured effecting changes within the Community framework, with as little disruption as possible. It will continue to be rough going because European policy raises departmental decisions every single day, and it is always possible to go with, or against, the grain.

Mr Callaghan has convinced the Foreign Office, which has overall charge, that when he said he wanted to make renegotiation success, he meant it. His opening bid will not be seen until he sets out his aims and needs in detail in Luxembourg tomorrow. But it appears that, however many changes are sought, Britain intends to work within the Community's own system rather than seeking to overturn it.

The battle in the Community itself is now about to commence. The general feeling in Brussels is that everyone will be ready to give Britain a helping hand, but that our demands are reasonable, that the French, as usual, hold the key.

It is too soon to guess how M. Giscard d'Estaing's government will react. If French officials insist on every son, they will risk losing the lot, because Mr Callaghan has still got to win the battle of Westminster (round two), which means he must be in a position to tell his party he has secured significant reductions in Britain's contribution on Europe.

This provides an important clue to a remark which Mr Keith, Secretary of State, made in his faltering press conference on Friday. For when he said that there was no doubt the strike had received overwhelming support "from all sections in the Protestant community", he was in fact questioning one of the principles upon which British policy in Ulster has been founded these past five years: that there is a vast majority of peace-loving, moderate folk in Northern Ireland whose only desire is an end to violence.

The experts in Whitehall had no doubt about their duty: it was paying too much, but hard to prove it in practice. So much depends on assumptions about imports and world food prices, and on currency movements. While the Community would not doubt be ready to agree that if trouble arises, Britain could count on a fair reimbursement, Mr Callaghan has a reputation as a shrewd political operator; as he himself would put it, a general without troops is no use to anyone.

Mr Callaghan was bound to start by sounding very unambitious for a Foreign Minister to set himself on the major issue of policy facing the nation, it may be noted that Mr Callaghan has a reputation as a shrewd political operator; as he himself would put it, a general without troops is no use to anyone.

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The British Government is now wondering whether the silent majority—the men and women to whom Mr William Whitelaw appealed two years ago—ever existed. Silent majorities do not win wars.

If the British should decree fresh elections one can only guess at the results, but the aspirations for a united Ireland would have to be crushed by an independent administration. It the Republicans could not be forced to pay allegiance to a new state—and when they woke up to their position, they almost certainly would not wish to do so—they a predominantly Protestant government with or without British economic support, would return to the siege mentality which has governed so much of loyalist history. Pieces of Ulster in which the IRA, who themselves support a form of fascism, were too strong might have to be stripped off to leave such a state capable of handling its subversives, who would by the nature of the conflict, turn out to be Catholics.

Many of the men behind the running of the strike are, it must be said, neither wicked nor politically immoral, and cannot imagine themselves as dictators whatever Mr Wilson may have chosen to call them. But they cannot see the political risks of supporting a kind of independence which would demand the exclusive allegiance of every catholic in Ulster. The SDLP long ago came to the conclusion that it would be a trick, but in the end the British will have to decide.

Unlike Weimar, Ulster is governed from outside its frontiers. The integrity of the union, and the political integrity of Northern Ireland's party leaders, must be judged eventually by the MPs at Westminster.

Robert Fisk

Metropolitan Museum of New York planned to put on an exhibition of Simon's Asian collection. The Shiva statue, known as Nataraja, was a small area bounded by Euston Road, Oxford Street, Tottenham Court Road and Great Portland Street. Giggling waitresses from Spaghetti House competed against some from Bertorelli in a relay race; students from the Middlesex Medical School ran a stretcher race, and employees from two pubs had a tug-of-war. A ferocious spaghetti eating contest was won by medical students and left restaurant, depicted in a cartoon.

A rock band with a star in the street, and members of a Polish dance troupe in national dress took turns with seven groups of Morris dancers. There was some street theatre—local resists, at £2 a gallon, flowed freely, washing down quantities of famous (curried) rissoles supplied by the H. Krishna Curry House around the corner.

The BBC have retaliated against my wacky item last week about their planned World Cup television coverage by sending me at least four copies of the Radio Times booklet on the Cup, which contains three full-colour close-ups of Jimmy Hill. All right, all right, I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

Curried rissoles

The shells from the Italian, German, and Indian restaurants, clustered in and around Charlotte Street, mingled in the sun as local residents and day trippers celebrated the Fitzrovia Festival on Saturday. Named after the Fitzrovia Tavern.

Two readers submitted pictures of today's confusing road signs which they spotted in Khartern, Hitchin.

PH

Is Ulster heading towards a Protestant dictatorship?

Belfast, June 2.

If Northern Ireland ever comes to an end, it will be because the Protestants started fighting the British.—Lord Craigavon, 1922.

In retrospect, it is not really surprising that Mr Tam Dalyell, MP, should have turned up in Belfast with such unseemly haste this afternoon. After all, how better to understand the possibilities of disengagement than to visit the house in Hawthorn Road, with its tarry palm trees and lichen covered urns, to talk to the men who may prove architects of British withdrawal? Those Westminster MP's who are increasingly worried about their constituents' distaste for Ireland and who remember Lord Craigavon's pre-scient remarks, may even be tempted to treat the events of the past two weeks—privately, of course—as a godsend.

The "loyalist" theory looks remarkably simple. There

should be elections in Northern Ireland to a new constituent assembly where politicians representing both Protestant and Catholic communities could decide on their future government without the interference of either London or Dublin. The Rev Ian Paisley stated categorically outside Stormont Castle last week—and not by chance—that he would sit down with the latter was not just a general strike, the inevitable protest of an angry majority. It was in effect a coup d'état. It was a modest one because it was not pursued to its logical conclusion and because the Army—the complicating factor in any United Kingdom rebellion—was not deployed against the loyalists. But for several days, every man, woman and child in Northern Ireland had their lives controlled by the men at Hawthorn Road.

For the "Provincials", this scenario of chaos looks mighty attractive. Like the loyalists, they want an end to intermittence without trial and an end to emergency legislation. Like the loyalists, they say they want peace between the two communities of militant nationalism.

Most persuasive of all for Catholic extremists, however—and here is the catch—the Protestants do not want Britain at the conference table. The suggestion that London should be left out of such discussions produces a reaction in Republicans of all species, not unlike that of Pavlov's dogs. And they simply forget that Dublin will not be there either.

Mr Paisley's colleagues have

meanwhile been arguing that they will not share power with the SDLP, and that here is the catch—the Protestants do not want Britain at the conference table.

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Religious leaders, supported

by the Opposition and intellectuals, claim that if the Government takes over the shrine it will destroy Japan's secular image. But the deputy chief priest at the shrine, Ryochi Ikeda, says: "The Americans have Arlington and the French have the Louvre; Japan should have its own monument."

According to the terms of Japan's postwar constitution, which forbids the state from subsidising religious sects, the Yasukuni shrine is registered as a private organization.

Ignoring the vociferous protests of the opposition, religious leaders and the pacifist lobby.

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Miss Clément is best known as a model and unflappability is part of her style. As the press release says: "Her complete lack of any kind of complex is a refreshing change for everyone who meets her," which I suppose depends on who else they know.

Language difficulties caused confusion over whether her mother had been a nun for 30

years and had been 15 when Aurora was born, or whether she had been a nun for 12 years and was 50 at the birth. It appears that the latter interpretation was correct. We do know for certain, because the Press release says so, that her grandmother was found on a Normandy beach where he was five, the only survivor of a shipwreck.

"So you have a dramatic background?" hazarded a reporter. "Dramatic background", muttered a press agent. "That's good. I like that."

Miss Clément is here for this week's opening of her first film, *Laocoon Lucien*, directed by Louis Malle, in which she plays a Jewish girl who gets involved with a member of the Gestapo during the Occupation. She is staying in Britain for a month to try to improve her English, because she thinks that way fortune lies. She wants to give up modelling and do films full time.

"There are only three good French directors", she said.

"Malle, Truffaut and Godard."

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TARTING AGAIN IN ULSTER

cks may now be expected to bear in the inter-party agreement at Westminster, which has an support and continuity to h policy up to its present of frustration. That is probably no bad thing. It is fine "responsible" politicians in parties agree about the dom of something. It is not good when their sense of possibility prompts them to go to their accord while events doubt upon their judgment. That way government loses ch with reality, as it is now ent, it has done in Ulster. anyway, whether it is to be comet or not, the Commons' not be expected to preserve previous extent of its like-mindedness while it examines Ulster's recent conduct of Irish affairs—going back beyond the recent General Election ch whatever the justification its timing in the context of politics of England, Scotland and Wales, was disastrous for the institutional arrangements inthern Ireland.

taking over the past will be barren exercise if it leads to an exchange of political accusations. It will be fruit to the extent that lessons are awn from it for the future management of policy. And there a particular need just now, to ich the Commons' is well-od to attend to inject more alism into the discussion of two "ge ideas—power-sharing" and "withdrawal". A provincial constitution which enjoined upon elected leaders of the two tribal communities the sharing of such executive power as was devolved to the province was the device adopted after the suspension of government as the one most likely restore civil peace and representative government to Northern Ireland. At that stage the pressing problem appeared to bring the Roman Catholic community back into a state of relative acquiescence in the rise of political authority.

elapse

hey were judged to be radically alienated, not merely from 50-year governing party, the onist, but from the nature of regime itself. The latter con in was one from which er's Catholics were showing s of recovery in the decade to 1968. But the battering of their parts of their community in the next couple of rs, self-inflicted as well as er-erected, brought a relapse, the terms which the Roman Catholic leadership in Ulster, etred by Dublin, successfully sisted upon, included the requirement that formal recogni be given to their nationalist aspiration towards a United Irish public. They would forswear constitutional means of achieving that ambition provided return there was some acknowledgement of the provisional character of the Northern Ireland re. Hence the "Irish dimension" of White Paper prose, the to the sun, the partial allegiance, the Sunningdale agreement concerning an all-land council, and the necessity equivocation on the part of se recommending the new agreements—all of which have ed so repugnant to any but most sophisticated of Ulster testants. Is arguable whether it was

sensible to construct a new constitution on such ambiguous premises. Perhaps it was necessary if anything was to be constructed at all, and it might have worked given better luck and judgment—or perhaps it was misconceived from the word go and doomed to meet the kind of end it did (though few English politicians and fewer editors are free to say so now without apology). But this much is now clear. As a constitutional experiment it is finished. It cannot be made to stand up again. The final defection of the Protestant community was swift, massive, disciplined and decisive. They will not have it, and that is that. If power-sharing is to be reintroduced—and it still looks the best hope for the tranquillity of all the people of Ulster—it will have to be reintroduced on different terms.

Problemati

The new terms for power-sharing (if any are available) will have to exclude all suggestions that Northern Ireland is in a state of potential transition towards incorporation in some all-Ireland polity. That makes the willingness or ability of Roman Catholic representatives to participate highly problematic; and it makes them vulnerable to the challenge of militant Republicanism. Conceivably they may have been sufficiently sobered and impressed by the display of Protestant resolution, and consequently they might respond to magnanimity on the part of the newly acknowledged Protestant leaders, to good internal guarantees, and to the offer of a significant role in the administration of the province.

Far from simple

However, even if it were decided that the guarantee was no longer in force, the position would be far from simple. Many in Britain might then think that they could be shot of Ulster with a fairly clear conscience. And they would be fortified in that by observing that a British presence in Ulster seemed to be incapable of doing the Province any good. But supposing the people of Ulster were not of the same mind. Supposing the majority wanted integration in, say, whatever post-Kilbrandon form is found for Scotland. The procedure of extruding a province from the Kingdom against the will of most of its inhabitants, unless at the dictation of another more powerful state, is a very strange one. Is there anywhere an historical precedent for it?

It would almost certainly be necessary to wait for a majority of the people of Ulster themselves to conclude that it would be better to make the break, probably into some form of independence and probably with a redrawn land frontier. But the upheaval and resentment that would cause, and the risk of an Irish civil war, to say nothing of the braking power of the manifold social and economic links with Britain, suggest that some time and much more agony would have to be gone through in the Province before any such conclusion was reached. Frustrating as it is for all concerned, there is no early or easy end to the historical intercourse by which for eight centuries the rulers of England have troubled and been troubled by the Irish.

Nor is it statesmanlike when Mr Wilson uses the broad brush to paint Ulstermen as spongers on the people of Britain, or calculates with the niceness of a petty-cash clerk how much every Northern Irish citizen costs the British taxpayer. Utterances of that kind will make bipartisan policy impossible, as Mr William Deedes, one of the surest interpreters of Conservative opinion on Ulster, has warned.

This week's debate will lead to no worthwhile or durable adjustment of policy unless the House of Commons accepts, as Mr Wilson's Red-Skin Speech of June 3 has accepted, that at a popular level there has now occurred a regrouping of Protestant and nationalist forces which owes little or nothing to any established political leader, and which is capable of resisting any attempt to control it within political channels.

It is easy, on our Westminster view, to see the democratic virtue and the rationality of the policies pursued in turn by Mr Callaghan, Mr Maudling, Mr Whitelaw, Mr Prys and Mr Rees to bring peace, prosperity and social justice to the province. Perhaps power sharing and the Irish dimension will prove the right answers in the end. But it is now clear that for some time to come they will not carry the assent of the overwhelming majority of the people of Ulster.

Today and tomorrow the House of Commons needs some voices, preferably not Ulster voices, that will risk an objective analysis of how the policies look to the Protestant majority with whom the success of any solution, short of British withdrawal and Ulster independence, now rests.

Westminster's record has some extraordinary features. Since 1969 it has destroyed three Prime Ministers of Northern Ireland and one Chief Executive, by forcing a pace of reform and a movement towards the Irish dimension that stripped them of their support. It has virtually ruined the Ulster Unionist Party. It has suspended the Stormont Parliament that existed for 50 years; imposed direct rule; created an Executive that could not live and an Assembly that was suspended; and has now restored direct rule through two fairly junior and inexperienced ministers.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The uses of industrial power

From Mr Robert Jackson

Sir, The Prime Minister is reported to have said of the Ulster Workers' Council on May 29 that "you cannot negotiate with people—it is like a group of workers holding the country to ransom not on something they feel strongly about—on wages and so on—but saying that people must pull out of the Commonwealth".

There is also the matter of honouring the constitutional guarantee to the effect that Northern Ireland shall not cease to be part of the United Kingdom in the absence of an expressed wish by the majority of the people of Northern Ireland that it should.

The guarantee was first given statutory form by the Attlee Government. There is no explicit condition attached to it, but there is an implied condition, as has been acknowledged by the more thoughtful public representatives in Ulster. The guarantee is primarily for the benefit of Unionists, and the implied condition is that Ulstermen of that persuasion do not systematically flout the reasonable requirements of the United Kingdom Parliament and Government.

That is not a precise condition, and any lightly entertained assertion that it had been breached would rightly attract accusations of bad faith. Nevertheless, circumstances clearly could arise in which the Protestant community of Ulster could justifiably be held to have voided the guarantee by their own conduct. The repudiation of the authority of the Crown during the political strike that brought down the Executive was beginning to approach that state of affairs. A settled refusal by a majority of elected representatives of the Protestant community to work the affairs of the Province on any basis other than that which developed out of the 1920 Act would bring the guarantee into question.

The best way of finding out if there is a way forward by that route is to call provincial elections in the late summer.

Elections held in preparation for a further attempt to hammer out a constitution would oblige Ulster politicians to define their attitudes more clearly, voting strength would be publicly exhibited, and United Kingdom ministers would be in no doubt about whom they had to deal with.

This time they should give Ulstermen the widest possible latitude to reach their own accommodation. Men as far apart as Mr Paisley and the provisionalists claim that, if left to themselves, Ulstermen can come to terms. That is improbable, but it is time the claim was put to the test.

Meanwhile the House of Commons will hear much about a growing popular demand in Britain for "bringing back the troops". The manoeuvre is not as easy as it sounds. To withdraw the army while retaining responsibility for internal security would not be a rational act. To withdraw the army and relinquish responsibility for internal security, in other words to cut and run, would be an act of treachery and irresponsibility unless there was first established a successor regime on a reasonably durable basis with means at its disposal of enforcing internal security. (Or is it suggested that this nation is so irresolute and bankrupt in statecraft that it drops its responsibility towards Ulster into the lap of the United Nations?) The only visible successor regime is a loyalist regime, and the only means it could be given of keeping internal security would be a

the social-democratic state under which we now live. Full employment and the growth of the public sector—not to mention counter-inflation policy—have in effect "politicized" the entire economy and abolished the nineteenth-century distinction between the sphere of politics and the autonomous sphere of economics.

In these circumstances it is surely more appropriate to define the limits of the proper use of industrial power in terms of a different distinction: between that area of social activity of any kind that is covered by rules made through the democratic process—in which political power is "politicized"—and that area in which such rules have been laid down.

Wise policies on the part of any Government of course requires that the rules that are made through the democratic process should take due account of political realities and of the need for consent. But at the same time the subject has a duty to consider the propriety of his holding his consent; and it is clear than on the basis of the distinction outlined above the use of industrial power against the Industrial Relations Act and its operation was improper, and that the miners' strike was at least of doubtful propriety.

Mr Wilson appears to have in mind a distinction between two separate areas of activity, the "economic" and the "political"; in one of which industrial power may properly be used, but not in the other. But such a distinction served Mr Baldwin well at the time of the General Strike, against the background of a liberal-capitalist society, it surely cannot fit the realities of

ROBERT JACKSON,
All Souls College, Oxford.
May 31.

Salary levels: burden of responsibility

From Mr John Arkell

Sir, Inflation, Mr Grimond declares (May 20), is the responsibility of the miners or the top of the establishment. He means, presumably, among others, the entire race of professional and salaried chairmen and managing directors who, he would have us believe, "whatever their blunders and losses, do not resign, often push up their salaries and perquisites, and never take a reduction". Does he really believe this to be a true picture of the top managers in this country?

No doubt there are numerous people who would like to have "cars, secretaries and free jaunts abroad" but how many would be capable of shouldering the burden of great responsibility with all the strain and anxiety it entails? As for "free jaunts" this is a strange way to describe the exhausting and endless world travel that intense international competition thrusts upon today's top executive.

Mr Grimond also ventures into the complex area of salary comparisons. He cites the low pay of nurses for which there is massive sympathy but totally overlooks the fact that in any fair sized organization in whatever sector of the economy, including a hospital, there needs to be a salary structure reflecting the various levels of responsibility of the various posts. The differentials between the levels should clearly be both commensurate with the responsibilities held and such as to make promotion from the level below meaningful in terms of spendable money.

Financial reward is not the only incentive for the professional manager who has the job satisfaction of leadership. If it is an important one—especially when it is a compensation for the strains and sacrifices involved. If the salary relativities between different levels of responsibility are to mean something in net earnings, then the tax situation itself forces up to a relatively high level the gross salaries in higher management.

It is clear from the BIM National Management Salary Survey published today (May 29) that the incidence of tax plays an increasingly large part in this whole problem. Moreover, the net take-home pay of executives in Britain is on the low side compared to that of other European countries.

I yield to no one in my concern for the problems facing the employees on the shop floor but in my judgment managers in this country have suffered more than most from an erosion of their living standards over the past few years, and the differentials between those who have the responsibility for making decisions and those whose job it is to carry them out are fast decreasing.

There may be a very few well paid sinecures and the odd example of the unacceptable "handshake" but it is a matter of continuing admission to me that the majority of skilled and experienced managers continue to work long hours under pressure, often at the sacrifice of their domestic lives, for such comparatively small take-home pay.

Mr Grimond certainly has my wholehearted support when he inveighs against blackmailing and holding the community to ransom by attacking a third party either

with actual physical violence or, as he puts it, by indulging in a strike in order to gain attention. But we must not economic ill primarily on the captains of industry and their managers who are directly concerned in producing the country's wealth from which we all benefit is totally wrong.

I have a great respect for Mr Grimond's strong sense of compassion but I think he would become a more effective advocate if he would join the rest of us in the twentieth century and shed some of his extraordinary misconceptions about the function and worth of the modern professional manager.

Yours faithfully
JOHN ARKELL,
Chairman of Council,
British Institute of Management,
Management House,
Parker Street, WC2.
May 29.

Institutional reform

From Mr James Robertson

Sir, Many of the people who have written to you in response to Mr Grimond (May 20) assume that we have to choose either to distribute wealth and incomes more fairly or to give greater encouragement to personal enterprise and initiative. Is this not a false choice? Do we not need a programme of institutional reform that will help to make our society both fairer and economically more successful?

Company law is now badly out of date; remote shareholders cause "absentee landlord" problems for large corporations; small private companies—which should be growing—lack of enterprise and innovation are discouraged. The financial system favours big people against small borrowers against savers, and those who speculate in existing assets against those who invest productively.

The tax and social security systems perversely combine economic inefficiency with social unfairness.

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jects to which were attached obliquely worded messages, one of the least offensive being "Fascists (sic) Pig".

There is nothing new in university terrorism by the far left and the craven failure of authority to take disciplinary action. Mr Patrick Wall, MP and his wife were mauled at Leeds University in 1968. A number of other Conservatives, of various tendencies, have been physically attacked or denied the freedom to speak.

All this is the work of extremist minorities. Labour and other non-Conservative students have displayed their disgust and regret and assisted in the attempt to restrain some of the excesses.

For exercising the traditional right to express constitutional political opinion the Monday Club finds itself in the position of defending the right of free expression which is the birthright of all law-abiding British subjects including those holding views different to ours.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES ROBERTSON,
21 Phillimore Place, W8.

Free speech obstructed

From Mr John Biggs-Davison, Conservative MP for Epping Forest, and Mr Harold Soref

Sir, Since your publication of a letter (May 13) from the Oxford student leaders of all three political parties, there have been further acts against the freedom of Conservative organizations and spokesmen to prevent them holding meetings and from conducting political activities.

The Essex University Students' Union has decided to withhold the annual funds from the University Conservative Association, because they invited one of the signatories of this letter, who is both an Essex Member of Parliament and a member of the Court of the University.

The Oxford University Monday Club is to be compelled by the Oxford Union standing committee to raise its deposit for the use of union rooms for meetings from £5 to £10 because of the attack made on the occasion of the visit of the other signatory of this letter.

Mr Andrew Bell, President of the Oxford University Monday Club, claims that half the

classroom windows of his bedroom smashed by four heavy metal ob-

jects to which were attached obliquely worded messages, one of the least offensive being "Fascists (sic) Pig".

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Yours faithfully,
JOHN BIGGS-



COURT CIRCULAR

CLARENCE HOUSE
June 1: Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother today visited Stratford-upon-Avon and reopened for navigation the Avon and River Avon, which had been closed in an Air-craft of the Queen's Flight.

The Lady Elizabeth Basset, Captain Alastair Aird and Captain James Duncan Millar were in attendance.

TATCHED HOUSE LODGE RICHMOND PARK

June 2: Princess Alexandra, attended by the Lady Mary Fitzalan-Howard, arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, this evening to meet the rest of the Queen's Flight from Germany.

The Duke of Edinburgh will present the Royal Aero Club medals and awards for 1973 at the United Service and Royal Aero Club, Pall Mall, June 13.

The Duchess of Kent, patron of The Spastics Society, will attend the National Spastics Games at Reading University on July 8.

A memorial service for Gerald R. Ford will be held on Thursday, June 6, 1974, at 6.15 pm, at the Central Synagogue, Great Portland Street, W1.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. G. Iles and Miss C. A. Dunphy

The engagement is announced between John, elder son of the late Mr C. B. Iles and Mrs Isidore of 50 Sefton Road, Bayswater, London, and Cheryl, twin daughter of Major and Mrs V. W. Dunphy, of 18 Gartree Drive, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire.

Mr C. J. E. Kemp and Miss F. A. Merring

The engagement is announced between Charles James Bowering, son of Captain Mr. J. E. Kemp, of Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, and Mrs T. W. Vernon-Smith, of Compton Abdell, Gloucestershire, and Jane, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs H. Herring, of Radcliffe-on-Trent, Nottinghamshire.

Mr D. J. Marks and Miss E. V. Barrau

The engagement is announced between David, younger son of Mr and Mrs H. V. H. Marks, of 39 Blenheim Gardens, Kingston, Surrey, and Jane, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs M. Spiro, of 40 North Crescent, London, N3.

Rev A. Marsden and Miss J. C. Clarke

The engagement is announced and the marriage will take place in the summer of 1975 between the Rev Andrew Marsden, of the parish of New Addington, Croydon, and Miss Janet Gilbert, Clarke, of Shirley, Croydon.

Mr P. Ziar and Miss J. Butler

The engagement is announced between Perran, only son of Mr and Mrs I. M. Ziar, of Penzance, and Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs E. I. Butler, of Plympton St. Maurice, Devon.

Birthdays today

Professor Sir Roy Allen, 68; Sir Donald B. B. 68; Hon Lieutenant-Colonel Sir George Falconer, 80; Sir Ronald Morrison, QC, 74; Hon Sir Con-O'Neill, 62; Vice-Admiral Sir Francis Friedman, 88; Mr Alec Robertson, 82; Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Alexander, 77; Sir Edward Wayne, 72.

Premium Bond winners

The weekly £25,000 Premium Savings Bond prize, announced on Saturday, was won by number EXL 17927. The winner lives in Lancashire.

The £1,000 winners are:

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Nypro disaster threatens major disruption in UK textile industry

Ronald Kershaw
Northern Industrial
Corporation, June 2
Production of nylon fibres by
major companies, Courtaulds and British Elkem, faces
disruption as a result of
explosion at the Nypro
caprolactam plant at Ellesborough, near
Bath. Thousands of workers in
textile industry will be
affected.

The companies and their
customers are now faced with obtaining
alternative supplies of
the raw material or of
a time when there are
shortages of both
supplies. Purchase of the materials
from overseas suppliers will
involve companies paying substantially
higher prices and will
incur a further burden on
the balance of payments situation.

Mr Les Grainger, chairman of
Nypro (UK), said that the impact of the disaster would be
immense. The end product of
the plant, caprolactam, was used
in manufacturing nylon.

The Ellesborough plant was
the only one of its kind in Britain. Its principal customers,
Courtaulds and British Elkem, had
been pressing for more and
more supplies and indeed were
contemplating extending their
operations.

The Ellesborough plant's
structure will directly affect
jobs of thousands of Courtaulds
and British Elkem workers at Spindon, Derby,
Beech, Liverpool and in
other Northern towns.

Mr Grainger said: "We are
looking into how we can help
in with replacement materials."
There was, Mr Grainger
said, a world shortage of
raw material, of which
there was really no way, he
of replacing the Ellesborough
product. Another form of
nylon was produced by ICI,
ever, using a different pro-

cess. Mr Grainger said that when
the plant was opened it produced
50,000 tons by opening new
and the Nypro company
Business Diary, page 19

Fall in building land sales cuts £6,000 off an acre

Edward Townsend
The market for building land
Britain is in a state of
lapse with average prices
now £6,000 an acre below last
year's levels, the latest edition
of the *Digest of Building Land*
reports today. The first
months of the year witnessed
a depression which was
more than seasonal, the
test states.

Reduced activity during the
day months of July and
just is usually followed by a
recovery in September
October, but the autumn of
3 saw no such recovery.

his decline continued into
winter. Average prices are
£20,890 an acre compared
£26,500 last year.

the *Digest*, published jointly by
the House-Builders' Federation
and the Estates Gazette,
the classic boom and
cycle" but, more particularly,
blames Government "anti-
which affected the

Louise costs expected to be stable until next year

though the demand for
interest rates fall elsewhere.
New money flowed in last
month at an estimated rate of
£70m to £80m. This compares with
the £65m inflow in April
and a net outflow of £21m in
March and £15m in February.

The Bristol and West, one of
Britain's largest 12 societies,
believe house prices are
unlikely to rise before next spring
at the earliest.

It is far too early to anticipate
a rise in house prices",
a spokesman said. "There could
be an increase, but all the factors
seem to militate against it."

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The survey is an important
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intention to take new action,
"if we judge it necessary, to
see that investment is not endangered
by the undue restriction
of profits".

The CBI, in its own trends

Nision funds concerned over business rents

Margaret Drummond
members of the National
Association of Pension Funds
meeting today to plan a
paper on property for
pension consideration.

the pension funds, which
been a heavy purchaser of
commercial property over the
three or four years are
not satisfied by the
Government's statement on
business rents.

the statement provided for
continuation of the freeze
business rents for another
and a lifting of controls
March 1975.

While the details of the
Pension Fund's paper will be decided
at the meeting, the main
ment is likely to centre on
loss of income borne by the
during rent restrictions.

Survey of manufacturers likely to show changes in capital spending programmes

Maurice Corrigan
Industrial Editor
Some revision of manufacturing
industry's plans for capital
investment is expected to be
announced by the Government
later today. A post-Budget
survey of 200 leading companies
during April and May has been
conducted by the Department of
Industry to establish the validity
of manufacturers' claims that
Mr Healey's measures would cut
capital spending.

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The CBI, in its own trends

Fair trading proposals for service industries

Services such as hairdressing,
window cleaning and advertising
will soon be subject to new
powers outlawing many restrictive
practices and stepping up
competition.

Mrs Shirley Williams, the
Secretary for Prices and Consumer
Protection, will next month, or soon after, publish
a comprehensive list of service
industries which she intends to
bring under the control of the
Fair Trading Act 1973.

This means that the services
listed, including estate agents,
road hauliers, betting and
gambling shops, employment
agencies and hoteliers, will have
to register any restrictive practice
with Mr John Methven,
Director General of Fair
Trading.

If the director general sus-
pects that the practice may be
against the public interest, he
will refer it to the Restrictive
Practices Court, which may in
turn ban it. Any infringement
of the ban would be a con-
tractual contempt of court.

Restrictive practices would
include not only price-fixing but
also "carving up" of
the market and arrangements
among businesses restricting
the terms and conditions of sale.

The Department of Prices and
Consumer Protection has no
idea how widespread restrictive
practices are in service industries.
But an official commented that
there was no doubt that the
1956 Restrictive Trade Practices
Act had brought to an end
"a wide range of disabil-
ing agreements".

Approval of Mrs Williams's
proposal must be given through
the affirmative order of both
Houses of Parliament. It is
the new law will be on
the statute books before the end
of this year.

No decision has been taken
yet on including professional
services such as lawyers, doctors,
dentists and architects within
the scope of the new
proposals.

Food groups prepare for review of Price Code

By Hugh Clayton

Food manufacturers have
started collecting evidence for
the Government's promised
summer review of the price
codes of the Price and Pay
Code. The Food Manufacturers'
Federation, which represents
500 companies, has asked for
case histories from its members.

Mr Ronald Halstead, chair-
man of Beetroot Products and
president of the federation, said
its members had two main
worries about the Code.

"People we are going to get
some changes in the productivity
deduction", he said. "The
present code as formulated by
the last government and continued
by the present one prevents
manufacturers from passing
on all of their extra wage
costs in the form of higher
prices."

Mr Halstead said that the
recent triggering of threshold
agreements had caused alarm
among food manufacturers.

"The way things are going
much of this will just come out
of our profits."

A further worry was the
Government's rule that the price
of a product may not be raised at
intervals of less than three
months unless costs rise very
sharply, or raw materials
account for a high proportion
of costs.

This would place a further
burden on profits by forcing
companies to absorb cost increases
for several weeks.

Merchant fleet at record level

Britain's merchant shipping
fleet, which has been expanding
at a steady rate in recent years,
reached a record level of nearly 50
million tons deadweight at the
beginning of this year.

Figures to be issued shortly
by the United Kingdom Chamber
of Shipping will show that the
fleet has almost doubled in
eight years from the 1965 level
of 26.5 million tons dwt.

Burmah had originally made

BP's buy-back talks with Kuwait break down

Beirut, June 2—Talks between the
Kuwait government and British Petroleum and Gulf
Oil over crude oil buy-back
prices have broken down, the
Middle East Economic Survey
said yesterday.

With the failure of an agreement
on buy-back prices from the
government of their newly
negotiated 60 per cent share of
the crude, the amount of crude
available to the two companies
will now drop to about 500,000
barrels a day each, from its
previous 1.5 million barrels a
day, the Survey said.

It was commenting on the
decision of the Kuwait government
to auction 1.25 million
barrels a day of crude oil. This
represents all the government's
available crude under the

newly ratified 60-40 agreement
with the Kuwait Oil Co, which
was formerly jointly owned by
BP and Gulf.

The Survey said the breakdown
in talks "does not rule out
the possibility that the two
companies might purchase
some of the government's crude
at a later date".

Before last year's October
war, KOC was lifting about
three million barrels of oil a
day, which was split fifty-fifty
between BP and Gulf.

Earlier last month, the
Kuwait parliament ratified an
agreement in which the govern-
ment took over 60 per cent of
the ownership of KOC leaving
BP and Gulf with 20 per cent
each.

The Survey said Japanese
customers of the two companies
are likely to be affected. It
noted these customers buy
about 400,000 barrels a day of
Kuwait crude.

BP was selling much of its
1.5 million barrels a day to
Exxon and Mobil, and Gulf was
selling a good part of its
1.5 million barrels a day to Shell.

The effect of their Kuwait
supplies not being cut by a
third "would be difficult to
exaggerate", the Survey
claimed.

According to the government's
announcement, "Bids for crude oil deliveries for
the second half of 1974 should be
received by the end of June and
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Offshore wells could be producing more than half world's oil by 1980

By Peter Hill

Offshore oil wells could be producing more than half of the world's total by 1980, compared with the present 18 per cent of production. With this prospect ahead, the Law of the Sea conference, which begins in Caracas this month under the aegis of the United Nations, is to draw up new regulations governing the exploitation of these reserves.

Industry sources suggest that offshore potential resources are probably at least equal to those on land and almost all of the deposits are located in undersea extensions of the main land masses.

Within a few years fields in the North Sea will be producing from wells at a depth of 150 metres (covered by the United Nations Convention on the Continental Shelf). But according to the latest issue of the authoritative monthly journal, *Marine Economic Geophysical Evidence*, indicates the best prospects are in waters ranging from 200

metres to 3,000 metres, where the producing structures in the outer Continental Shelf and slope are much thicker than in shallower seas.

Apart from the technical problems in drilling at these depths, the lack of any licensing authority governing exploration and production of oil in deeper water could be a serious constraint on the development of these reserves.

The present regulations for exploration of the Continental Shelf are considered unsatisfactory because not only are they open to varying interpretations, but they have not been ratified by the required two thirds of all states which have become independent since they were drawn up.

In some areas of the western approaches there is disagreement between France and Britain, while off the west coast of Scotland there is a dispute over the island of Rockall between Britain and Ireland.

Within a few years fields in the North Sea will be producing from wells at a depth of 150 metres (covered by the United Nations Convention on the Continental Shelf). But according to the latest issue of the authoritative monthly journal, *Marine Economic Geophysical Evidence*, indicates the best prospects are in waters ranging from 200

metres to 3,000 metres, where the producing structures in the outer Continental Shelf and slope are much thicker than in shallower seas.

At the weekend the South Vietnamese government announced that it had awarded oil exploration concessions on nine blocks in its continental shelf in the South China Sea to 12 American, Australian, British, Canadian and Japanese companies.

This month oil companies will be invited to take up oil and gas exploration concessions off the coast of 30 countries, the need for some international agreement on the development and licensing of offshore concessions will be strongly pressed at the Caracas conference.

Successes for executive job-finding

By Clifford Webb

The Department of Employment's newest venture, the separately managed Professional and Executive Recruitment branch (PER), has finished its first complete year of operation with promising results.

Mr D. Rees, PER's director, said yesterday: "After a rather sticky start we are now moving from success to success. In the past year we found jobs for 8,000 people, that is more than the whole of the private sector dealing with professional and executive recruitment.

"We have turned over £1.25m and although we are not yet making a profit I am certain we shall do this in 1975-6 and that means we are keeping up with a target which at one stage seemed impossible to many people."

Mr Rees admitted that PER made many mistakes in its early days but said the organization was now developing into one of the most sophisticated in its field.

Since June, 1973, it had introduced charges for employers on a scale varying from £30 to

£18 per cent of starting salary for finding suitable candidates. Since October it has been using advertising at the rate of £500,000 a year, most of it paid for by employers.

With 75 per cent of professional recruitment filled by advertising in Britain PER's use of this technique has doubled its success rate.

PER has at present 50,000 candidates on its register and some 20,000 vacancies to fill. About half the candidates are still in employment.

Channel Isles banks turn to local recruiting

Quick disillusionment awaits anyone who imagines that because no passport is needed to travel between the United Kingdom and the Channel Islands, his new office in Jersey or Guernsey can easily be staffed from the mainland.

In fact both islands operate what are effectively immigration controls through their housing laws, which allow an imported worker to occupy a house or flat only if he is considered "essential" to the community.

Despite the growing importance of the finance industry to both islands, the housing authorities by no means accept that banks and professional firms should be allowed to import staff every time they want to expand.

With the acute pressure on housing the definition of essentiality has been tightened up. To get permission to bring in an outsider it must now be shown convincingly that the job is not one that could be done by a local person.

Rather more latitude is given to the clearing banks in recognition of the special part they play in the community and the inevitably labour-intensive nature of their operations.

But even here there is strong resistance to the idea that every

Industry in the Regions

imported bank clerk should be allowed to have his own house or flat. Jersey now specifically lays down that grades of staff should do their house-hunting in their home town.

For higher grades the policy is that only a top manager can buy a house in his own name. Middle management and what an official described as "senior management of a transitional nature" have to live in houses bought by the bank.

In both cases at least £25,000 is expected to be paid for the property and in practice it often has to be considerably more.

At the same time there is nothing to stop a "residentially qualified" bank employee, ie someone who has lived in Jersey for 10 years, sharing his flat with up to five non-qualified colleagues who count as lodgers.

Jersey's insistence on imported staff living in bank-owned property is proving a real deterrent to recruiting, according to Mr Ray Sidaway, Williams & Glyn's Channel Islands manager.

Printers told to resist price cuts pressure

By Edward Townsend

Britain's printers were advised by two sources at the weekend to absorb cost increases "to an unnecessary extent" and to resist pressure to cut prices.

Mr Henry Davy, retiring president of the British Printing Industries Federation, speaking at the federation's annual congress in Harrogate, said some printers had absorbed costs mistakenly, at the expense of future investment and efficiency.

Return on capital of companies participating in the federation's management ratios scheme rose only marginally despite the favourable market conditions in the latter part of 1973, he said.

"When all printing firms take as much pride in profitability as in producing perfect printing, the 'healthier' the industry will be."

Mr Alex Jarratt, chairman and chief executive of the Inter-

national Printing Corporation, gave a warning against price-cutting to increase turnover in the next two years before the expected reappearance of growth prospects from 1976.

"If the industry is to survive in a healthy state to reap the benefits of the 1980s, it must be strong enough to resist these pressures and temptations."

Price-cutting without genuine cost reduction was not a good basis for competition, which should be based on quality, service and reliability. The industry should invest in knowledge and skill, raise the quality of employees, improve the fixed asset basis and keep abreast of technological development.

"In the past year Britain's printing industry, the largest in Europe, achieved a net export balance of £55m. Its turnover represents 10 per cent of the output of all British manufacturing industry."

Peak output levels mark man-made fibres recovery

Britain's man-made fibre industry returned to peak production levels in April and effectively completed the industry's recovery from the slump which had threatened at the beginning of the year.

Figures issued today by the British Man-Made Fibres Federation show that production of staple fibre, where output of 28.2 million kilograms was 9 per cent higher than a year earlier. It was also 8 per cent above the average monthly figure for 1973.

The federation said that against the encouraging improvement in April, the strike at the end of last month in Ulster was a severe blow.

From John Earle

Rome, June 2

Chase Manhattan Bank's Rome branch this weekend put into effect a series of restrictions on customers' accounts because of rising costs.

No interest will be paid on current accounts (such payments are normal practice in Italy) unless an average monthly balance of 200 lire, fall in which a penalty charge of 3,000 lire will be deducted.

On savings accounts no interest will be paid on balances below 100 lire, fall in account in foreign currency no interest will be paid on monthly balances below \$5,000 or equivalent.

The bank will no longer handle standing orders for payment of rent, insurance premiums and the like.

A spokesman for the bank said the decision was dictated purely by rising costs. Similar restrictions are understood to have been introduced at Chase Manhattan's other Italian branches in Milan and Bari.

Edward Owen

Cost-cutting at Chase's Rome branch

From John Earle

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Wool usage maintained

Wool requirements of United Kingdom woven and tufted carpet manufacturers last year exceeded more than 100 million lb for the second year in succession. The United Kingdom branch of the International Wool Secretariat said yesterday that although world demand for wool forced up the price during 1972 and 1973 there had been no appreciable decrease in consumption by British carpet manufacturers.

The IWS said that the very slight change in wool consumption in woven carpets to 89.02 million lb, last year from 90.61 million lb the previous year had been balanced

and that this necessarily means a

total exclusion of the sex in what has until now been a predominantly male preserve.

It was recently offered the chance, with the vendor's full approval, to come in on one

small side, but this has created

almost what could be termed a

crisis in the hierarchy of my

firm, as I am told that although

my principals do not doubt my

enthusiasm and ability, I must

confine myself to matters more

in keeping with my sex.

If this is common practice

throughout the country

presumably hundreds of local

churches, scouts, etc.

Others interested in funding

for charity, because I am

quite certain that they

are delighted to collect up the

monies and sell them

to newspaper merchants.

Yours faithfully,

MISS M. WEDLAKE,

Hedgeways,

7 Burners Lane,

Kin Farm Industrial Estate,

Stony Stratford,

Milton Keynes.

R. W. FROST

Managing Director,

Griffell Ltd,

7 Burners Lane,

Kin Farm Industrial Estate,

Stony Stratford,

Milton Keynes.

1973 1972

Turnover 5,098,348 4,113

Net Trading Profit 485,416 163

UK Taxation thereon 242,313 63

Net Trading Profit after Tax 243,103 105

Less Extraordinary Items 58,654 47

Net Profit after Tax and Extraordinary Items 184,449 57

Dividends net (gross equivalent 10.22%) (1972: gross 5%) 74,037 54

Net Profit after Tax and Dividends 110,412 E 1

Earnings per ordinary share 6.00

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Higher off-peak electricity charges

From Mr D. H. A. Turnell

Sir, Sir Peter Menzies is misleading in his letter of May 28 when he states that "the cost of coal and oil burned to produce off-peak electricity has increased just as much as the cost of the coal and oil burned to produce electricity on the standard tariff".

Electricity at night is generated by the most economic generators with high thermal efficiency. The average thermal efficiency of all the power stations is approximately 28 per cent whereas the most efficient generators have a thermal efficiency of approximately 33 per cent.

In the past year Britain's (or oil) burnt at night produces about 20 per cent more electricity than that burnt in some of the older power stations. Moreover, a significant percentage of the night load is generated by nuclear power stations which have not been subject to the large increases in fuel costs of the conventional power stations. The percentage of nuclear-powered generation should increase further if the new AGR stations can be made to operate.

I am in no doubt that the fuel adjustment charge is not fair to the off-peak consumer.

Further, I find completely unacceptable the inability of my local electricity board to inform me what price I shall be paying for my electricity until I receive my bill three months later. What other commodity does one purchase without foreknowledge of the cost? I do not understand why two nationalised industries, the National Coal Board and the Central Electricity Generating Board, cannot agree the price of coal for periods of 12 months ahead.

Yours faithfully,

D. H. A. TURNELL,

38 St Anne's Crescent,

Lewes, Sussex BN7 1EB.

From Mr P. Griggs-Smith

Sir, The chairman of the Electricity Council appears to have brushed aside or missed the point which concerns millions of users of off-peak electricity.

The chairman of the Electricity Council gives the explanation that the chairman of the Electricity Council of the increased cost of electricity does not quite fit with the speech by the UK Secretary of State for Energy in the House of Commons April 1, when he implied that those whose accounts are a year or over would be charged by 50 per cent; £50 a year by 10 per cent.

This is the precise opposite of the effect of an all-round increase of 30 pence per unit explained by Sir Peter Menzies, which would place the highest percentages of increase on the smallest users.

The Under-Secretary affirms in the House that his proposal had been made in consultation with the Electricity Council. Has its chairman's new announcement been made in conjunction with the Department of Energy?

Yours faithfully,

GRAHAM BUSTON,

56 Pont Street,

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

The Labour view of insider trading



Mr. E. Weiss, chairman of Foseco Minsep: strength of the overseas income base

Both would prefer the 72½p a share indicated with Daigley's first approach in March—and both would want cash.

Even so, the Takeover Panel executive was right to consider C&C's claim that the proposed action by Tiger and Bibby falls within the Code.

As for Tiger and Bibby, they will if they carry out their threat to vote against Daigley's offer, appear to be acting to a significant extent for commercial reasons.

With the animal food industry going through a tough trading period, C&C's shareholders will be lucky to see anything like the current Daigley bid price in the market for some time.

So, whatever their reasons, Tiger and Bibby have got themselves into what was always a bid situation and they ought to accept Daigley's offer or bid themselves.

Beyer, Peacock

Opening shots

The attempt by the Dublin-based investment group, Moore Holdings, to remove the non-executive directors from the board of the Beyer, Peacock & Light engineering group is a move which will be backed by the near 3,000 small shareholders. Apparently, some 24 per cent of the equity is in hands favourable to the board, with the stakes held by the Prudential and by Sir Fitzwalters Wright, "merchant bankers to East Anglia", the most significant.

The Prud and Beyer have a common director while Sir Fitzwalters Wright came upon the scene with his 8 per cent stake after market purchases of Beyer stock arising from the rights issue earlier this year, where it acted as underwriter at a fee of 2½ per cent.

Moore Holdings, which has been involved in more than a little controversy in its revamped form, obtained its original 9 per cent stake in 1972 through the market with shares acquired when the previous Beyer chairman reduced his holding on giving up office. Its present holding of 35 per cent obviously places it in a strong tactical position in pushing through its proposals.

Its case revolves around three major points. The collapse in Beyer's profits from £267,000 to an unaudited £61,000 was perhaps not as unexpected as Moore makes out. Certainly, the previous chairman a year ago did say, as Moore points out, that "one would expect a trading profit for 1973 far exceeding anything achieved since the reorganization of the group".

But he did go on to say that there were reasons to fear that difficulties may arise and that the second half-year may have some unpleasant shocks in store—as indeed was the case. On sure ground is the attack on the necessity for the rights issue, although this was well supported in the context of market conditions, with 75 per cent of the issue taken up. It is perhaps worth pointing out it cost Moore well over £100,000 when last November it had borrowings of

over £900,000 just to maintain its share of the equity.

The third point is the inference that the Beyer board is too heavy in non-executive directors—five out of a total of seven. But the statement that the two executives it wishes to appoint will be independent as opposed to nominees is stretching credibility a little too far, especially as Moore would thus cut itself off from the transparent benefits of equity accounting.

Foseco Minsep

Slower in the first quarter

A p/e ratio consistently running into double figures in recent weeks is a fair guide to the high level of stock market expectations from Foseco Minsep, and the indication that trading profits up by 36 per cent last year—had risen by a modest 14 per cent in the first quarter, with margins falling appreciably into the bargain, was not all up to par. Hence the 5p fall in the shares to 99p on Friday where the historic p/e drops back below 10.

With 77 per cent of sales generated outside the United Kingdom, the grounds for concern over the slowdown are reasonable enough and the accounts do not help much in clarifying the direction from here on. The implication, however, is that the home operations have not escaped the problems of the three-day week and that the overseas business has come to the rescue. Encouragingly, Foseco, the building and construction division which currently looks the most suspect, appears to be sustaining its recent rapid advance.

Judging by the organic improvement in margins last year (the overall slippage being explained by acquisitions) it could be unwise to read too much into the first quarter trend, and there is little enough to quarrel about in the undergeared balance sheet. The cautious will hold back in the hope of reassurance from the half time results, but in the meantime the shares could offer attractive buying opportunities for the more bold.

Accounts : 1973 (1972)
Capitalization £45.3m
Net assets £23.9m (£21.4m)
Borrowings £4.77m (£5.51m)
Pre-tax profit £9.66m (£7.2m)
Earnings per share 10.0p (8.5p)

Portals

Defensive qualities

Portals' accounts show that the group performed rather better last year than the preliminary results indicated. Trading profits of the company's three divisions, papermaking, water treatment and engineering and property increased by just over a quarter, more than compensating for the lack of revenue from the Indian Paper Mill contract, which expired at the end of 1972, contributing some £257,000 extra to the comparable year's profits.

Portals' largest division, water treatment and engineering, last year contributed some £1.2m, last year improved its profits by nearly a third in spite of labour and raw material shortages, helped substantially by a turnaround at Vacuumatic, where a continuing recovery should be a feature of the current year.

On the other hand, Portals, with only around 30 per cent of its sales last year in domestic markets, looks quite well placed to withstand the pressures of 1974. In particular, the balance sheet looks remarkably healthy, with overdrawn reduced from £3.6m to £2.3m and cash balances and short-term deposits up from £1.4m to £3m. The shares, at 90p on a p/e ratio of 7.5, look good.

Accounts : 1973 (1972)
Capitalization £11.7m
Net assets £4.9m (£2.4m)
Borrowings £2.33m (£4.9m)
Pre-tax profit £3.88m (£3.29m)
Earnings per share 12.4p (12.08p)

The retail price index rose 3½ per cent in April bringing it to a level nearly 10 per cent higher than in October 1973, thereby triggering three rounds of index-linked wage payments. The cost of imported materials, on the other hand, has been levelling out, the prices of many individual commodities having actually fallen, and this has been interpreted to mean that the rise in retail prices may now slow down.

The main purpose of this article is to suggest that it is premature to take an optimistic view and that it is unlikely that retail prices will slow down significantly during the rest of 1974. A very large fall in commodity prices would reduce the rate of increase, though not by all that much before October, while a further acceleration in retail prices is at least on the cards.

This pessimistic view is taken mainly because a considerable proportion of the rise in costs during the past year had still not, in April, been passed on to retail prices. In the first quarter of 1974 the price of imported goods and services was nearly 40 per cent higher than a year earlier while the rise in labour costs was around 12 per cent, making the weighted average increase in unit costs about 24 per cent.

Yet the rise in retail prices of

manufactured goods, which account for about three quarters of the retail price index, was only about 12 per cent over this period. A proper estimate of the extent to which costs have been incurred but not passed on requires careful consideration of time lags and other factors.

Calculations carried out in the Department of Applied Economics at Cambridge indicate that, by April, a rise in costs had occurred on a scale corresponding to a further increase in the (all items) retail price index of about 9 per cent; this is the amount by which the index would rise after April if there were no further changes in costs and if normal profit margins were not further

depend, finally on the movement of costs after April (whether these are "principal" settlements under Phase Three, threshold "triggers", or changes in import prices) and the speed and extent to which these get passed on.

The lowest increase in the between April and October, which in my view can plausibly be entertained is 6 to 7 per cent, bringing the index to a level nearly 12 per cent up on October 1973—implying that the threshold will be triggered at least 10 times in all. In reaching this conclusion it has been assumed that half the labour force is covered by threshold agreements in the pipeline, not yet passed on. In other words an attempt to delay the impact of threshold triggers may be offset by a faster than usual adjustment by firms of their prices for other cost increases; such a speeding up process could not easily be identified by the Price Commission.

Otherwise, relatively optimistic assumptions have been made, in particular that the sterling exchange rate is unaffected by these developments, that import prices fall as much as they did in the aftermath of the Suez crisis and that costs are passed on with a lag no shorter than normal.

Note, too, that this relatively optimistic forecast implies a legacy of "stored up" costs incurred by October 1974, but not yet passed on, such as to generate a subsequent rise in retail prices of about 7 per cent.

The inflation could easily be

worse than this. The assumption that wage increases, including threshold payments, are passed on with a normal time lag of about four months seems vulnerable in the very inflationary conditions in prospect since it implies a further squeeze on cash profits which may well be resisted.

There are, of course, provisions in the Price Code designed to attenuate the effect of labour cost increases on prices. But it may prove difficult to enforce these because of the scale of cost increases in the pipeline, not yet passed on. In other words an attempt to delay the impact of threshold triggers may be offset by a faster than usual adjustment by firms of their prices for other cost increases; such a speeding up process could not easily be identified by the Price Commission.

Moreover it is too early to assume that a substantial further fall in world commodity prices will occur or to be at all confident that sterling will hold at its present rate against other currencies.

These considerations suggest that the rise in prices may turn out to be as much as 20 per cent per annum and more rapid inflation even than this can be no means be ruled out.

Perhaps the main obstacles to checking the inflation from next autumn will be first that

How much inflation in the pipeline?

Little chance of prices slowdown

The retail price index rose 3½ per cent in April bringing it to a level nearly 10 per cent higher than in October 1973, thereby triggering three rounds of index-linked wage payments. The cost of imported materials, on the other hand, has been

levelling out, the prices of many individual commodities having actually fallen, and this has been interpreted to mean that the rise in retail prices may now slow down.

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Harland's long search for profits

Champagne corks will be popping throughout most of next week in Athens. Already the hotels are filling up with clients from every corner of the globe.

The occasion is Posidonia '74 or, more prosaically, the international shipping exhibition held every two years in Athens as an event which those regular attendees are careful to ring changes on their diaries well in advance.

This year promises to be more stimulating and interesting than some recent ones in terms of the banter at the cocktail parties and at the stands in the Zappeion Palace—what will be the impact of Suez? What are the prospects of lasting peace in the Middle East? How will the growing nationalism in shipping affect the fortunes of the independent owners?

Closer to home, there will inevitably be considerable discussion on the prospects for the British shipbuilding industry if the Labour Government goes ahead with its plans for total nationalization of the industry.

For a small group of men from embattled Belfast who will be manning the Harland & Wolff stand the question is particularly pertinent. For them and their company—in which the Government already has a 47.5 per cent stake—the exhibition is of considerable importance for somehow they have to be able to reassure their past, present and potential customers of the group's ability to continue building ships. Against the background of five years' civil strife in Ulster and the highly

damaging effects of the recent Ulster Workers' Council strike, this will be no easy task.

As the first visitors are passing through the doors of the exhibition hall in Athens, today the Harland & Wolff operation in Belfast should be getting back to normal.

The damage caused by the strike, while it may be measured in terms of lost production, can not be effectively measured in terms of what owners may adopt in the future.

While its executives understandably do not like to become involved in political arguments, the group cannot be separated totally from them.

In the light of the importance of the group to the economy the decision by the Government not to commit itself to the provision of additional funds for the time being was clearly political manoeuvring in an effort to influence the Workers' Council's strike.

Now that the strike is over the question of the extra cash is expected to be resolved in the very near future. It involves an undertaking given by the previous government in December last year under which £100m of debt was to be replaced by the Government. The Government already has a £75m of non-vote preference shares convertible to 100m tons in the first half of 1975) the prospects of the company achieving profitability in 1974/75 are not bright.

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Boosting the sherry image

Orson Welles will fill your television screen next month when Luis Gordon Group joins hands with Pedro Domecq SA in a film advertising campaign aimed at getting more sherry down your throat.

If the somewhat round, cigar-smoking Welles is not your idea of a sherry drinker, never mind. At least you can't ignore him. And if enough people take note of the product he is selling, then both Luis Gordon, the importer, and Pedro Domecq, the producer, will be happy.

For recent years have shown that while most of us drink, fewer of us take our first sip, turn to sherry. Vermouths like Martini and Cinzano are the ready drinks and worries Gordon and Domecq, two old and close families and firms that for 76 years have traded with each other.

FINANCIAL NEWS

ia Tootal's cautious but overseas still 'strong'

Ashley Drucker

Coming out of the working restrictions period better than initially expected, Tootal turned profits for 1973-74 advanced from £12.1m to £18.3m pre-tax, against £11.4m to £18.3m pre-tax, too many uncertainties like a prediction for the current year out of the question. The brighter side, the overseas interests remain "incredibly strong".

Overall, says Sir Neville Brewster, chairman, in his annual report, the group was well placed to face the future, with overseas last year counted for half of profits and the two thirds of sales growth. On financing aspects, a record level of capital expenditure and working capital have been financed by the higher level of net profits and an increase the year in net borrowings some £10m. The larger working capital results particularly in the major increases in raw material prices in the year.

Results

Robert Moss at peak but slows in second-half

The second half of Robert Moss, Oxford-based injection moulders, shows a marked slowing down after the opening 40 per cent upturn. Pre-tax profit for the year to March 31 moved up some 16 per cent to a fresh peak £40,000 on turnover slightly after at £1.02m to £1.2m. The net, however, declined from £28,000 to £22,000 after tax £12,000 against £15,000. For the power crisis, the net estimates that the "net" would have shown an extra £0,000. Earnings a share work at 5.31p compared with 3p. A final dividend of 1.52p (1.45p is declared, payable on July 25, making a total from 2.625p to 2.75625p. Pre-tax profit includes interest receivable of £42,000 (7,000) from high interest XPA

alter Runciman

prospects for 1974 are bright", Viscount Runciman

Freight report

VLCC Gulf rates continue to climb

Meanwhile adequate finance is expected to be available for all expected requirements.

A breakdown of sales and profits at home and abroad, shows that United Kingdom textiles contributed in £94.2m, against

£85.3m to sales, and £9.5m (£5.65m) to profits. Retail activities contributed £18.2m (£17.2m) and £9.5m (£5.000) respectively.

Textile activities in North America brought in £47.5m

compared with £42.1m to sales

and £4.7m against £4.5m to

profits. Africa's was £5.0m (£2.7m) and £1.48m (£732,000) respectively. Asia turned in £11.3m (£8.85m) and £1.62m (£800,000), while Australasia where there is a major expansion and modernisation scheme, showed a big increase from £1.1m to £18.2m. In Europe the contribution was £10.44m compared with £7.73m to sales, though earnings dipped from £8.83m to £7.56m.

The bolster for owners' hopes was Exxon, the American company. Along with some inde-

pendent oil companies, Exxon was firmly open for early June VLCC tonnage. Moreover, by Friday the company's requirement was extended to cover the whole of June following. Owners said, the old market rule of "if you cannot get cover at the rate you seek, extend your require-

ment".

Exxon however made no move

and just watched the market

while, it appeared, the market

remained confident of further gains, although their

opinion seemed based on less solid ground.

There was little to detract

from last week's rate performance.

The main barometer was the VLCC which on the Persian Gulf to Europe route, com-

manded Worldscale 140 (\$8.80

per ton), a gain of 10 points (£1.04 per ton) over the week.

There were even reports by

the weekend that Worldscale 140

87.5 (£5.07) had been paid, after

rumours earlier in the week of

Worldscale 100 (£10.37) had

been discounted.

For smaller ships of about

100,000 tons, Worldscale 140

£14.51 per ton was the order

of the day, although there was

one rogue fixture at 10 points

less (£12.75 per ton per month) an unprecedented level,

brokers said.

answer for investors is offered

by Fuller & Co, which suggests

buying convertible loan stocks,

among which it recommends

stock in Bats, Tube Invest-

ments, GEC and several others.

Fuller also recommends short

dated gilts, arguing that further

cuts in United Kingdom inter-

est rates are likely as sterling

strengthens. But Simon & Coates

remains cautious on gilts, pre-

dicting a period of consolidation,

or even a small technical

recession. In equities, howev-

er, Simon repeats its view that

there is potential demand for

shares on longer term views

just below the present trading

range.

From Joseph Sebag comes a

detailed review of the somewhat

battered retailing section. Sebag

assumes that the Government's

control policy does not

herself a period of continual

intervention in retailing, argues

that the downward rearing of

the sector opens the way to a

fresh assessment.

Taking as criteria low gearing

and good liquidity, strong man-

agement, and involvement in

clothing rather than durables,

the firm comes down in favour

of the old bellwether Marks &

Spencer, narrowly outrunning

British Home Stores, and new-

comer, Mothercare.

Terry Byland

Euromarkets

Eurobonds: is the worst over?

Is the Eurobond market bottoming out at last? It would be a brave man indeed who would respond with a categorical "yes" to such a question at the moment, but when bond dealers begin actively adjusting their positions in a direction which points to a less bearish view there must at least be some ground for encouragement.

Kidder, Peabody Securities, one of the biggest market

makers, finally makes its choice.

The brokers Galbraith Wrightson noted that this "was a distinct possibility" and one that would undoubtedly put premiums up to levels of all proportion to those being paid earlier in May.

Meanwhile, the dry cargo

traders tended to be on the quiet

side, although rates were still

attractively firm. But there was

some significant time-charter

business, including an extremely

high \$6.200 per day for a German

Liberty replacement vessel over

12 months' employment.

This represented \$12.75 per ton per

month—an unprecedented level,

brokers said.

The underlying assumption is that interest rates are unlikely to go much higher and could

come down. There was plenty

of expectation in the market

last week, for instance, that prime rates might be reduced

before the weekend, although in

the event these hopes were

disappointed.

Expectations of this sort are

not yet finding much response

from investors, though. When

a big bond fund came into the

market on Thursday and Friday

last week with large selling

orders—particularly of British

issues—there were no buyers

around to take up the stock and

prices were being cut by up to

two points in some cases.

Eurobond prices (yields and premiums)

That must raise some questions about how easily Morgan & Cie will find takers for its \$25m, 9½ per cent 7-year issue for Pacific Lighting, although Morgan is one of the most respected names in the market and some banks are now recommending short-dated issues of this kind. Significantly, Morgan reckons it is cheaper from the borrower's point of view to do the issue in Europe rather than in New York at the moment, an indication of how much faster the New York bond market has fallen than the Eurobond market this year.

Meanwhile, the decision by Ferrovie dello Stato of Italy not to proceed with its widely

moored floating rate note issue is hardly surprising in view of the response to the \$50m issue by a subsidiary of the Italian state telephone concern, STET.

The issue got away without too much difficulty, but there was a notable absence of big name takers, the assumption being that the major banks are unhappy to commit themselves further to Italian borrowers.

It should be pointed out, in addition, however, that Smith Barney, which is handling the \$200m 7-year Ferrovie loan, has argued in favour of a conventional position to enjoy the luxury of running short positions in a market with so many sellers and so few buyers. But the indications are that Kidder is not alone in its view of the market from here.

Many houses are still prefer-

ring to keep their heads low, to

run as small a book as possible

commensurate with making a

market and not to take a par-

ticular position either way. But

some were admitting on Friday that on a long-term view they would prefer to be long than

short just now.

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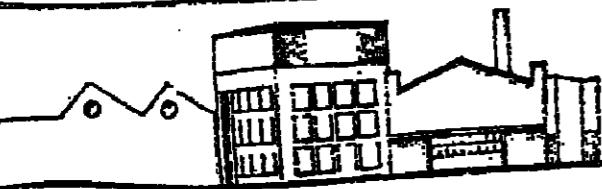
two points in some cases.

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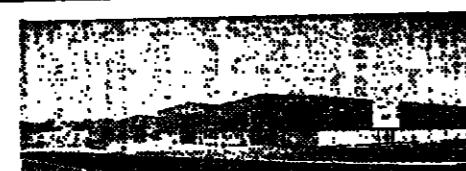
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BIRTHS

BOOTHMAN.—On May 31st, at Luton, Bedfordshire, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John and Martin—son of Mr. and Mrs. Barber, and Peter, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John and Barbara Thomas and Laura.

CLAYTON-STANLEY.—On June 1st, in Sidcup, to Sandra (née Rodger) and Peter (née Stanley) a son of Peter and David.

CLEVE.—On May 31st, at home in Littleton, to Lorraine (John) and John Cleverton (Edward Thomas), a brother for Sarah and Simon.

COLLINGWOOD.—On June 1st, in London, to Mr. and Mrs. Alan (née Pern) and David Collingwood—a second son.

CODD.—On May 31st, at St. Teresa's Hospital, Whitchurch, to Angela (née Bradwell) and Matthew (née Cook) a daughter for Daniel and Sarah.

COWARD.—On 31st May at Barnet Hospital, Whitchurch, London, L.L., Mrs. M. C. Walker and Bruce, twin daughters.

DUCKER.—On May 31st, at Queen's Hospital, Whitchurch, to Angela (née Bradwell) and Matthew (née Cook) a daughter for Daniel and Sarah.

ELLIOT.—On May 31st, at Pembury Hospital, Kent, to Amy (née Tomson) and Richard Elliot—a son (Peter).

LAUDER.—On 26th May, at Ashbury, to Jean and Roger—a daughter (Sarah) and a son (Rebecca).

LASSEN.—On 30th May to Susan (née Lassen) and Charles Lassen (née Alexander).

LYNE.—On 31st May to Amanda and Mark (née Luton) a son (Matthew).

OBSEY.—On 30th May, at Lucy Baldwin Maternity Home, Sevenoaks-on-Seven, Kent, to (née Obsey) and a son (John).

PEENSTONE.—On May 30, 1974, at Derby Royal Infirmary, to G. C. (née Williams) and J. Peenstone, a son, a brother for Nigel.

SAVAGE.—On May 31, at Meads Avenue, Grange, Bradford, to Andrew (née Gordan) and Christopher (née Gordan) (William).

SEGUIN.—On May 31, 1974, at St. Edmund's Hospital, Whitchurch, to Joanne (née Spens) and Berwick Spens (née Williams) a son (Matthew) and a daughter (Sarah).

WEINSTEIN.—On May 31st, at St. Joseph's, Bexleyheath, to Claire (née Fawcett) and David (née White) a daughter (Juliet and Sarah).

BIRTHDAYS

ALEXANDRA REGINA.—15 years.

Geoff Stegson (on the day).

My contribution price, better than a £100.00.

MARRIAGE

LOUCH-CURRAN.—On 1st June, 1974, at Kentish Town, between Keith James Louch and Christine Susan Curran.

GOLDEN WEDDING

HARLAND-BARRETT.—On June 3rd, 1964, in the Parish Church, Lancaster, by the Rev'd C. C. T. Harland, between Mr. and Mrs. John Barret.

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